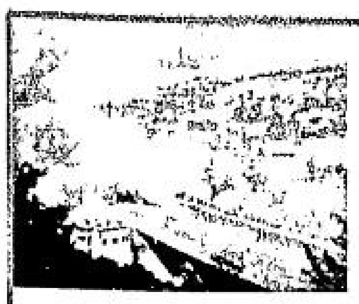


WORLD / A22

Israel keeps up blistering offensive against Lebanon after Hezbollah leader defiantly declared open war in a conflict that's spiralling dangerously out of control despite international calls for restraint

NEWS / A8

GMA will go to Hawaii for centennial of the arrival of the first 15 Filipino farmers to work there

JOB Market

Job opportunities for at least 5,000 Filipinos through the PDI Job Market Employment Expo 2006 July 17-19, Glorietta Activity Center

Expat Pinoys seek seats in parliamentary system

By Doris C. Dumlao

EXPAT PINOYS HAVE JOINED THE NATIONAL debate on Charter change by seeking equal representation in Congress under the concept of "supranational" citizenship, which is recognized in 85 countries including the European Community and former British colonies under the Commonwealth of Nations.

EXPAT/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, July 16, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 218 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Bionic eye for grandma

WASHINGTON—IN THE 1970s TV show "The Six Million Dollar Man," the strapping young astronaut got a bionic eye. Next year, it might be your grandmother. VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies Inc. is seeking US government ap-

BIONIC/ A4

CALL ME THE 6 MILLION DOLLAR LOLA!

Coup financiers known

WHAT'S INSIDE

Wife of the son of a major action star slugs, kicks, hits with badminton racket woman in Las Piñas. Guess who?

ENTERTAINMENT / A3-4

The R word is out: Put your kids on a leash as world's biggest toy store 's' finally Pinoys'

LIFESTYLE / D1

Tondo's little big man, John Kennedy Olano, 10, rewarded apartment unit for saving his 4 siblings from their burning house

METRO / A18

Gonzalez says he has names of 20 businessmen

By Armand Nocum

INVESTIGATORS HAVE IDENTIFIED at least 20 "prominent" businessmen and other key individuals as deeply involved in destabilization plots, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez did not identify the alleged financiers who he said gave "direct" aid to the destabilization efforts but he claimed some of them were owners of franchises of a fast-food chain.

"We learned some franchisees are regularly giving food to (protesters) and are therefore deeply involved in destabilization moves," Gonzalez said in interviews with the INQUIRER on Friday night and yesterday.

He clarified, however, "that the whole" fast-food chain was not involved.

He said one of those involved in the anti-Arroyo plots was "aspiring to be an ambassador."

Gonzalez said there were "20 prominent businessmen" who were deeply involved in the destabilization plots but the number could be more if those giving help out of "sympathy or friendship" were counted.

Ten of them financed the failed February coup while 10 others "have been financing destabilization moves since the time the Hyatt 10 withdrew their support from the Arroyo administration," Gonzalez said, when asked whether the government had also identified financiers of the Magdalo rebel soldiers.

COUP/ A4

THE GRANDEUR OF IT ALL
President Arroyo, one of 2,000 foreign and local guests at the 60th birthday bash of Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, is ushered by her host into the 1,700- room palace on Saturday. (*Story and more pictures on Page A8*)

JERRY CARUAL / PCPO

Asylum could be Bolante's defense vs deportation

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—FORMER AGRICULTURE Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante has hired an immigration lawyer to represent him in deportation proceedings, bolstering speculation that he is seeking asylum to prevent his return to the Philippines.

Carl Shusterman, a former Immigration and Naturalization Service lawyer, said those seeking asylum as a defense against deportation could be detained for illegally staying in the United States until an immigration judge rules in a hearing on their asylum claim.

"[Bolante] is working with an immigration attorney," said Filipino-American lawyer Roman Mosqueda, who added that he spoke with the immigration lawyer yesterday.

But he refused to disclose what they had discussed or to even name the lawyer. "I promised to keep confidentiality," he said.

The Los Angeles-based Mosqueda said he had been scheduled to meet with Bolante at the San Pedro Detention Center in California on July 13 (July 14 in the Philippines).

But his meeting with the ex-agriculture official widely believed to be the architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam did not push through.

Mosqueda said he was able to obtain permission from the immigration officer at the detention center to see Bolante but that he got busy and postponed the meeting.

He also denied being Bolante's lawyer, as was reported elsewhere.

"I was not and am not [Bolante's] lawyer, and I don't know whether [Bolante] is applying for asylum," Mosqueda said. "I was just explaining procedures in the asylum application process."

Mosqueda said he had been

ASYLUM/ A4

16 YEARS AFTER BAGUIO QUAKE

Hyatt survivor keeps gratitude journal

By Blanche S. Rivera

TODAY, WHEN MARIE THERESE NECIO-Ortega takes out her gratitude journal—actually a high-tech personal digital assistant everyone else in Hong Kong has—she is likely to jot down "Thank you for being alive" and mean it more than she would any other day.

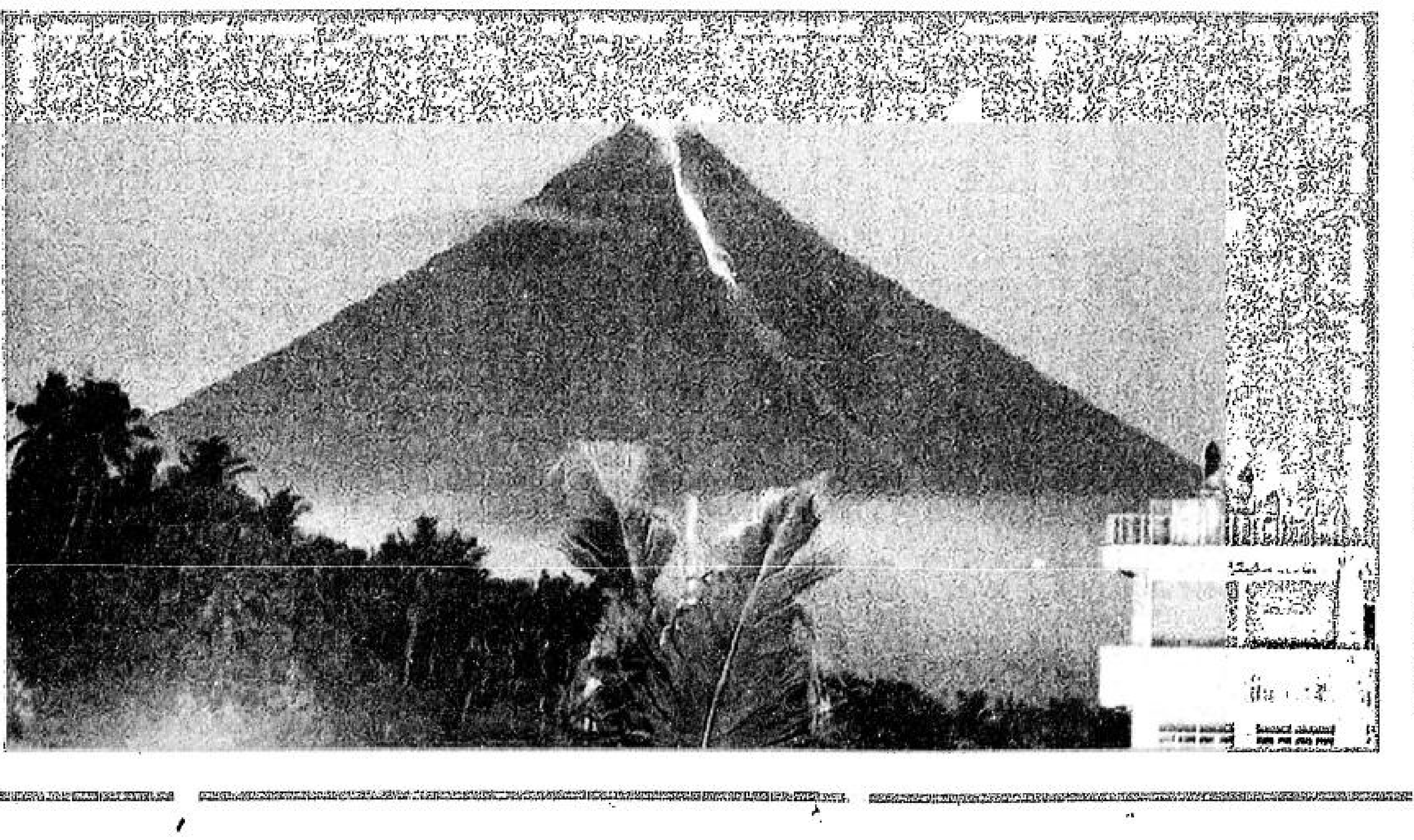
It is, after all, the 16th anniversary of the day she thought she would die.

The contents of Ortega's gratitude journal range from her appreciation of a "great sunny day" to a "great walk around Hong Kong" and to "seeing a child's beautiful smile," from thanking God for her "not getting washed up on that boat" to "being physically whole."

Having been spared from death, Ortega strives to live every day as if it were her last, knowing fully well the void that losing people creates.

In the fast-paced, forward-looking world of Hong Kong where Ortega now works as communications and promotions manager

HYATT/ A6



'A QUIET ERUPTION' That's how Phivolcs describes the state of Mayon Volcano as lava trickles down its slopes for two hours on Saturday even as low clouds obscure the sight of the near-perfect 8,118-foot mountain. Authorities have to prepare for the worst but that may still be weeks away, if it happens at all, says Phivolcs. (*Story on Page A2*)

AFP

How Muslims, Christians can be peacemakers, good neighbors

By Volt Contreras

A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT IS THAT THE number of mosques in Metro Manila is 115, and counting.

That's how far and wide the Filipino Muslim community has spread into the capital—a point to consider by those who still think building bridges between Muslims and Christians remains a largely "Mindanao" issue.

But one group has long recognized the scale of this South-to-North migration, and has worked in the last three years to reduce the social friction that often ensues whenever an Ali or a Muhammad moves into the neighborhood of the Cruzes and Santoses.

Through the Peacemakers' Circle Foun-

HOW MUSLIMS/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and the western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/15/06

Second FRONTPAGE

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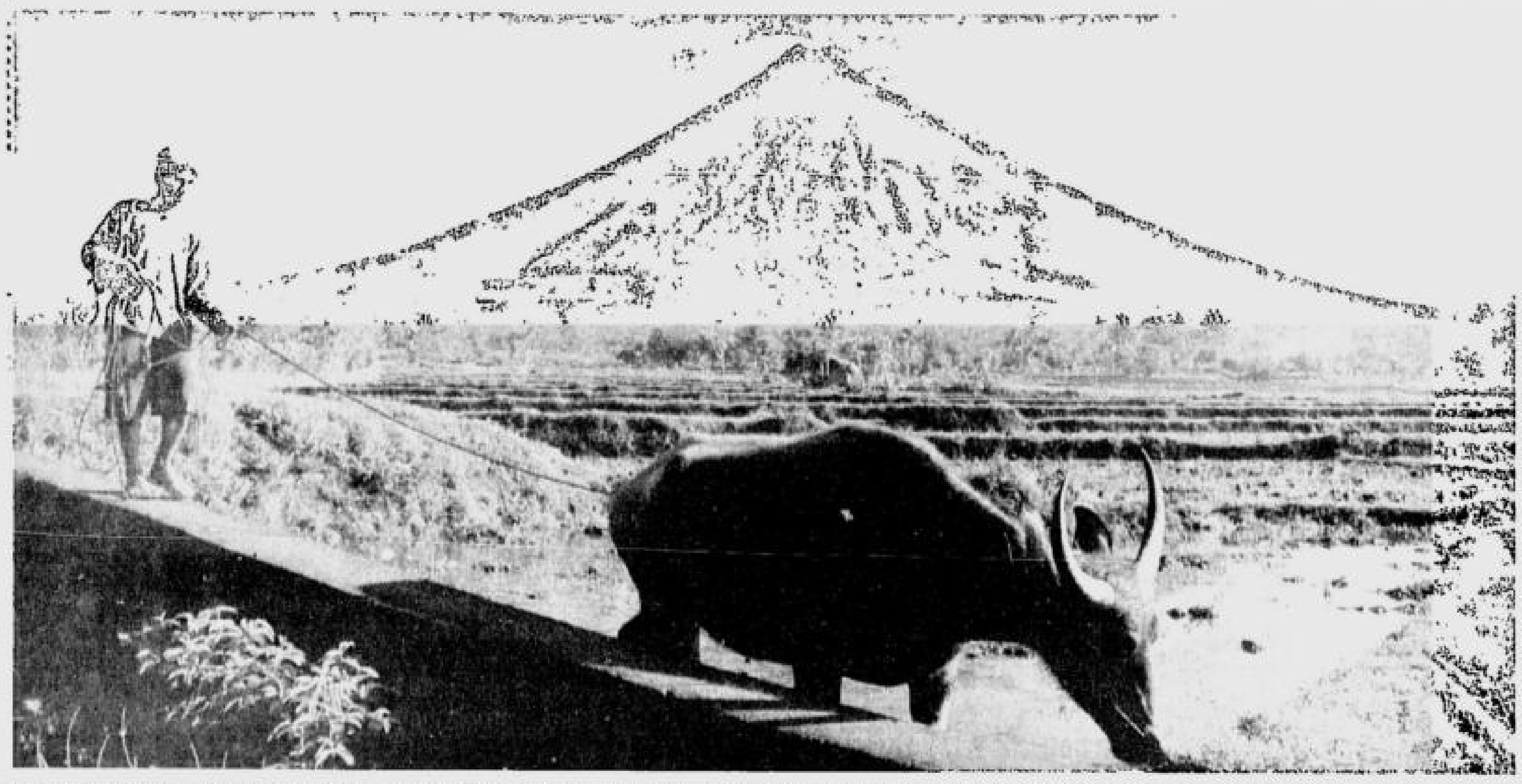
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy



MAJESTIC MAYON volcano looks serene from a distance as a farmer and his carabao go about their business. NINO JESUS Y. ORBETA / SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Prepare to evacuate, Mayon residents told

By Ephraim Aguilar
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—RESIDENTS NEAR MT. MAYON HAVE BEEN ADvised to prepare for evacuation in case volcanic activity intensifies after lava began trickling down its slopes in a "mild and quiet eruption" on Friday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Philvolcs) raised the volcano's alert level status from level 1 to level 3 at about 6 p.m. on Friday after observing lava trickles in the southeast quadrant of the volcano.

"The sudden raising of the alert level status was due to the volcano's rapid change brought about by mild explosions and detaching of volcano fragments," said Ed Laguerta, resident volcanologist of the Phivolcs.

Alert level three means there is "relatively high unrest" in the volcano with volcanic quakes and tremors expected to become frequent ahead of an eruption.

The 2,474-meter Mt. Mayon, known for its near-perfect cone and one of the country's 22 active volcanoes, last had a major eruption in July 2001, forcing the evacuation of about 50,000 people. It has erupted about 50 times since 1616.

Phivolcs warned that more explosive eruptions could occur "as gas-rich lavas are expelled" and warned residents to stay away from the six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ).

On Saturday, officials extended the PDZ to 7 km on the southeastern slope, where most of the molten rocks and other debris have been rolling down since Friday.

Laguerta said the volcano's southeast quadrant was the most critical area as volcanic flows travel to that direction, affecting areas here and in the towns of Sto. Domingo and Daraga.

Evacuation of residents in the highly critical areas will start as soon as Philvolcs raised the alert level to 4, said Cedric Daep, Albay provincial disaster action officer.

Daep said around 7,476 persons or 1,484 families live within the six-kilometer PDZ.

Daep said relief officials were stockpiling food and readying evacuation centers. Daep said groups have been formed to transport evacuees, provide security for abandoned communities, and provide health and sanitation services at the centers.

But officials said they won't order any evacuation yet as they braced for a possible violent eruption that may take weeks.

"There has been an increased tendency toward a hazardous eruption," Alejo Baloloy, a Phivolcs science research analyst said, but ruled out a sudden, major eruption.

"Right now, we are on a mild eruption phase, with high frequency tremors attributed to rockfalls by the detached lava from the dome." He predicted a major eruption could take place "within weeks."

On the streets of Legazpi City, capital of Albay province close to the volcano, some residents watched as boulders and other debris cascaded from the crater, stirring up brownish-grey clouds of volcanic dust in their wake.

"What is happening now is a mild and quiet type of eruption," Renato Solidum, chief of Philvolcs said. "What we are watching is the rate by which this magma is being extruded. If it is faster and stronger, it will lead to more hazardous eruptions."

Laguerta said red-hot boulders, some the size of cars, broke into smaller pieces after being expelled from the crater, piling up about 4 km down the southeastern slope.

On Friday night, a 2-km long streak of lava that looked like "burning embers" was seen slowly snaking down the southeastern slope, said Jukes Nunez, an operations officer with the provincial disaster officer.

Nunez said an eruption warning system was already in place for quick evacuation of nearby communities, and radio stations would also broadcast emergency calls.

"There is no more human activity" within the 6-7-km danger zone as of Saturday, he added.

Mayon's most violent eruption in 1814 killed more than 1,200 people and buried an entire town in volcanic mud. An eruption in 1993 killed 79 people.

The Philippines is in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where volcanic activities and earthquakes are common.

In June 1991, Mt. Pinatubo exploded in Zambales in one of the world's biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people. *With AP, AFP reports*

San Juan was on his own, says Magdalo comrade

By Nikko Dizon
and Norman Bordadora

THE MILITARY MUTINEERS THAT Army 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan repudiated believe he did so for his own self-interest.

"It was for his self-preservation. He was making concessions but the group did not expect he would do that at their expense," a source close to the mutinous officers said yesterday.

San Juan, who was captured in February a month after escaping military detention, on Friday renounced his links with the rebels who have been charged with the failed coup of July 2003, and admitted that he held talks with communist guerrillas.

San Juan was among the group of young captains and lieutenants, calling themselves the Magdalo group, who briefly occupied the Oakwood Premier Hotel in the Makati financial district in July 2003 and demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials.

The military has claimed that the rebel officers have formed a tactical alliance with the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed group, the New People's Army, to oust the President.

The source, quoting the Oakwood mutineers, said the talks that San Juan claimed to have held with the CPP-NPA were his own business and it was not fair for him to have dragged the other Magdalo members into it.

"It was his affair, his escape and his subsequent meetings with the communists. What he did did not have the blessing of the Magdalo leaders," the source said.

San Juan "was not operating within the parameters which the group agreed upon, that is, to submit themselves to the (legal) process without giving up their advocacy," the source added.

Not surprisingly, some of the Magdalo soldiers resent their former comrade.

"They feel that he's now officially part of the black propaganda against the Magdalo. It affirmed and actively put those remaining in the group in a bad light," the source said.

The detained junior officers also believe that San Juan's nearly four months in solitary confinement may have broken him.

"The most fiery are the ones who burn out first," the source said, recalling the impassioned speech that San Juan and another repentant officer, Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, made before the media at Oakwood just before they surrendered in 2003.

SAN JUAN

CPP spokesperson Gregorio Rosal has denied San Juan's claim of an alliance between the group of renegade soldiers and the communist rebels.

"Considering that Lt. Lawrence San Juan has long been held incommunicado by the AFP leadership and is being held by the neck by Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and his cohorts, all the statements he has made today are suspect and lack credibility," Rosal said in an e-mailed message to the INQUIRER.

San Juan claimed that before his arrest in Padre Garcia in late February, he had met with top leaders of the NPA's Melito Glor Command under Tirso Alcantara, a member of the CPP's central committee.

Officials have claimed that the meeting showed that the Magdalo group had allied itself with the communists.

In a related development, the Philippine National Police will soon be deputizing barangay officials as police auxiliaries to defend local communities from NPA rebels.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the deputation of barangay officials in the anti-insurgency campaign is part of the PNP's taking an "active support role" in the military's final push against the communist insurgency.

Puno's announcement followed Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's declaration on Friday that the President had signed an executive order firming up the coordination between the PNP and barangay executives in the campaign against leftist rebels in the countryside. With Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BRIBING BISHOPS

Palace seeks end to 'intrigues'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY APpealed for an end to the intrigues surrounding the cash donations recently given by the Palace to bishops which it claimed was nothing more than government support to poor Catholics.

"Allegations of bribery and inducements are most unfair to the government but more especially to the bishops. So much innuendo and intrigue have been made on this subject. I hope this silly issue is terminated," said Presidential Adviser of Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio.

Claudio maintained that any assistance given by the Palace or government agencies was not meant for political ends. "These are not inducements for the Church leaders to side with the government on political issues. Such assistance is intended to uplift the human conditions of people at the community level. The Palace merely recognizes the parish as an effective channel for the extension of government assistance because it is the least prone to graft and self-serving personal or political agendas," Claudio said.

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita believes there are some sectors out to drive a wedge between the Palace and Church that they had to put motive in a simple matter such as government donations to the Church. "Probably there is somebody out there giving these so-called bribes and claiming he is from Malacañang. But that thing is so brazen I can't imagine anyone from Malacañang doing that," Ermita said.

At least two bishops had admitted receiving envelopes containing cash from a staff member of Fatima Valdes, Malacañang's undersecretary for religious affairs. Both returned the money.

The incident prompted a militant group yesterday to call on the bishops to denounce Malacañang's attempt to buy off the prelates.

The Pambansang Lakas ng mga Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas made the appeal after Dipolog Bishop Jose Manguiran recounted how a Palace emissary slipped two-cash-filled envelopes into his hand at the sidelights of the CBCP plenary meeting in Manila last week.

Pamalakaya said it salutes all the bishops who came out in the open and exposed to the public what it called "a classic act of bribery and betrayal."

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said the CBCP could suffer a credibility crisis and should make the necessary steps to clear its name. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

PNP: No objection to Erap leave

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice has no objections to a request from former President Joseph Estrada that he be allowed to leave his Tanay, Rizal rest house detention center so he can file libel charges against his detractors in Pasig.

In the comment to the court late Thursday, the PNP asked that the Sandiganbayan Special Division schedule Estrada's leave for Tuesday to give the PNP more time to prepare the necessary security measures.

"We have no objections. We are only asking the court to allow the former President to file his suit on Tuesday instead to give us more time to prepare," said Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal, head of the PNP's Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO).

In a motion filed last Monday before the court hearing plunder and perjury cases against him, Estrada asked to be allowed to personally file a libel suit against former beauty queen Joelle Pelaez, her mother Blanquita and the Manila Standard Today newspaper before the Manila City Prosecutors Office.

Aside from asking that he be allowed to file the libel suit himself, Estrada also asked the court to allow him to undergo a comprehensive medical check-up at the San Juan Medical Center. *Nelson F. Flores*

Don't blame us, say Baguio nursing deans

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEANS of Baguio's nursing schools said they should not be blamed if the exposé about cheating in the 2006 Nursing Licensure Examination would reduce the number of Filipino nurses being employed abroad.

Maria Grace Lacanaria, dean of the St. Louis University College of Nursing, said they were apprised about the potential backlash on migrating nurses of their campaign against anomalies in the annual licensing tests of the Professional Regulation Commission.

"[The 91 complainants and the city's nursing schools] will work to cleanse Philippine nursing [community] of professionals who cheated to get their licenses, but this should not be the reason for us to be condemned if the world's medical community starts distrusting our nurses," said Lacanaria.

At a rally on Tuesday, Lacanaria said cleaning up the licensure examinations would guarantee that foreign employers would be getting competent and efficient nurses.

The country sends 15,000 nurses annually to the United States, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration expressed fears this number would be cut due to the scandal.

Lawyer Kisaak Gabaen, who represents the nursing school deans, said they were initially blamed for the United Kingdom's decision to suspend its quota of migrating Filipino nurses last month.

But the UK cut was a consequence of its new health laws that restrict the number of foreign medical employees it could hire, Gabaen said.

The school deans said they would sue next week a top official of the Philippine Nurses Association who tried to pressure them into suppressing the expose because of ongoing negotiations to host the US National Council Licensure Examination for nurses in Manila.

On Thursday, PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Lucero confirmed there were leakages of test questions and answers that circulated among clients of a review center during the June 11 and 12 licensing exams here. A PRC fact-finding body traced the leak to the test manuscripts of two members of the PRC board of nursing.

But Lucero did not say whether PRC would void the exam results as a consequence.

Ninety-one of the examinees complained to PRC about the cheating, and had asked for the suspension of both the test results and the two members of the nursing board.

Members of PNA in the city and the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing (ADPCN) also filed their complaints.

The R.A. Gapuz Review Center which was implicated in the leakages yesterday said it would fully cooperate with PRC's investigation of the incident.

The RAGRC noted that the PRC fact-finding committee did not find the review center to have been involved in the leakage.

"RAGRC is confident that its name will soon be finally cleared and vindicated of any suspicion thus proving its earlier consistent assertions that it had absolutely no participation in any leakage," it said in a statement.

RAGRC said it supported the PRC's recommendations that administrative charges be filed against those involved and that some questions in Test III and Test V be excluded and invalidated. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Comelec execs hit for snubbing probe

By Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza

COMELEC OFFICIALS QUESTIONING THE power of the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate their involvement in the P1.3 MegaPacific automation contract are disrespecting the Supreme Court decision that ordered the probe and voided the deal, according to the main complainant in the case.

Augusto Lagman, the president of the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, yesterday assailed the Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr. for snubbing a hearing on the case before the Ombudsman last Thursday.

Abalos, Borra and Tuason, through their lawyers, argued that being public officials removable only by impeachment, they cannot be investigated by the Ombudsman.

"The Supreme Court ordered the Ombudsman to conduct a probe and it complied. If Abalos and the others do not recognize the Ombudsman's authority, this only means they're also not recognizing the Supreme Court's decision," Lagman said in a phone interview.

Comelec independence

"They could be cited for contempt for disrespecting the Supreme Court's decision. As lawyers, Abalos and the commissioners should know that the law is what the Supreme Court says it to be," he added.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Abalos argued that "we're only protecting the constitutional independence of the Commission on Elections."

"We're just asserting what we believe is right for the institution. We're raising the lack of jurisdiction [as a way of] protecting the constitutional independence of the Comelec. It's not for us but for the Comelec," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the claim that the Ombudsman had no power to investigate constitutional officials like Abalos was "without credibility" in the eyes of the public.

"That defense is ridiculous and unacceptable. They may use all kinds of legal defense, but credibility cannot be defended by a supposed legality alone," Pimentel said.

Lagman said Abalos and the other commissioners may be raising the issue of jurisdiction as a "delaying tactic."

On June 30, the Ombudsman recommended Borra's impeachment, citing his role as the project head of the Comelec automation program.

The Supreme Court gave the Ombudsman another 45 days to finish its investigations and determine the culpability of Abalos, Tuason and other senior election officials.

Lagman recalled that since the scandal broke about three years ago, Abalos always countered accusations of graft by telling critics to just wait for the result of the Ombudsman's investigation.

But now that the Ombudsman has done its investigation, "why is he [Abalos] singing a different tune?" said Lagman.

Abalos said the issue of jurisdiction was just one aspect of the case.

"The people shouldn't think that we're ignoring the Ombudsman. We're not, but we want them [the Ombudsman's investigators] to settle first the issues we raised," he said.

Jurisprudence

Pimentel said the issue could reach the Supreme Court which he said was "ludicrous" because "it was the Supreme Court that had precisely ordered the Ombudsman to investigate the criminal culpability of Comelec officials and other individuals who were involved in awarding the poll modernization contract."

He cited United States jurisprudence that says constitutional officials, below the President and justices of the Supreme Court, can be investigated and criminally charged even before they are impeached by Congress.

"What is more important is not the insistence of constitutional officials that they enjoy immunity from suit but the principle that nobody is above the law," Pimentel said.

Asked what he would do if the Ombudsman rejected the Comelec's position, Abalos replied: "If they do not sustain us, then it's okay, let the investigation proceed."

"Personally I'm willing to be investigated precisely because, as I've been saying before, I don't believe that we ever committed anything wrong [regarding the MegaPacific deal]," he said.

Lagman claimed the case against Abalos and the commissioners who approved the contract was "an open-and-shut case," as the Supreme Court had ruled that illegal acts were committed in the approval of the contract.

Spill the beans, Borra urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO PIMENTEL Jr. yesterday urged Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra to turn state witness and spill the beans on what he knows about the shelved P1.3 billion MegaPacific poll automation contract and other irregularities in the Commission on Elections.

Pimentel said Commissioner Borra should "wake up and follow the dictates of his conscience" after the Ombudsman made him "a sacrificial lamb" when it singled him out as the principal culprit in the fraudulent contract and recommended his impeachment.

"Commissioner Borra should realize that he is an expendable member of the Comelec," Pimentel said in a statement.

"He does not have a strong political backer. He does not have political clout. That explains why he alone among the Comelec commissioners is being nailed down," he added.

The senator said it "defies logic why only Borra is being blamed for the anomaly" when six other Comelec commissioners, led by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, approved the contract for the purchase of 1,961 automated vote counting machines to MegaPacific.

In fact, Abalos should bear the greatest responsibility for the deal as head of the agency, he added.

Pimentel said there "is a good reason to believe that Borra was made the fall guy after he incurred the ire of Malacañang" when he candidly admitted during a Senate hearing that election fraud took place during the 2004 presidential election, particularly in Mindanao.

He said if Borra agreed to become a state witness, "not only will the poll automation scam be resolved but this will also pave the way for a total cleansing and revamp of the scandal-rocked Comelec."

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Coup . . .

From page A1

Hyatt 10 refers to the 10 senior administration officials, including Cabinet members, who resigned from the government in 2005 and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

"It is not just a question of giving money, say P25,000 for rallies, but it is really giving aid and comfort... including financing the renting of safe houses, giving food and other direct support and virtually financing major rallies," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez has been named by Ms Arroyo as head of a panel to prosecute the perpetrators of the failed Feb. 24 coup.

The military claimed the February plot involved a conspiracy of right-wing politicians, Army dissidents and left-wing elements to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

'We have names'

"Now we have the names of people who have financed the failed coup ...They are already on our radar screen. We will call them before the National Bureau of Investigation," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he had also talked to two "middle Cabinet-level officials" who allegedly attended a meeting of coup plotters in the house of Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in Dasmariñas Village on Feb. 23.

"They said they were there to talk about cock-fighting and sports," he said, adding that the two might actually be "testing the waters" about the alleged coup.

Gonzalez said the two officials, whom he did not identify, should be prosecuted.

"Imagine having Cabinet-level officials attending such conclave. It means these people are traitors and that is punishable by law," he said.

Sleepers around

Although the coup failed, he said the government cannot afford to let its guard down.

"There are sleepers around so we continue to be on guard," he said.

Gonzalez also said that the investigators now knew where sacked Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim prepared the video tape where he announced his withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo.

Lim, who has denied involvement in any coup effort, is now detained at a top-security military facility in Tanay, Rizal.

The Feb. 23 meeting was where Council of the Philippine Affairs leader Pastor "Boy" Saycon supposedly called Lim to confirm that he was set to lead a withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo the next day, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution.

Time article

Time Magazine's Philippine correspondent Nelly Sindayen attended the meeting and wrote about it in the magazine but thus far, Gonzalez had failed to extract information from her.

In her report in Time, Sindayen said those who attended the meeting in the house of former President Corazon Aquino's brother were discussing a possible plan for a "withdrawal of support" from the President, including the role of disgruntled soldiers in a "planned movement against Ms Arroyo," and the formation of a new government.

Saycon and Cojuangco denied Sindayen's report, saying that what they discussed were preparations for the celebration of the Edsa I anniversary to be held the following day.

Gonzalez said the investigating panel he was asked to head is made up of officials from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the national intelligence council, the national inspectorate office and other offices. Its task is to map out legal action against those behind the failed coup.

Names in laptop computer

A senior police official said the names of four political personalities surfaced in a laptop computer and documents allegedly belonging to the Magdalo group which were seized during last week's raid on their safe house in Quezon City.

Director Jesus Versoza, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the police could not divulge their names yet in the absence of more concrete evidence to show their participation in the alleged attempt to topple the government. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Bionic . . .

From page A1

proval to sell a tiny telescope that could be implanted in the eyes of some elderly patients suffering from age-related macular degeneration.

The first-of-its-kind device is called the Implantable Miniature Telescope. If approved, the pea-sized telephoto lens could enable some patients to do away with the special glasses and handheld telescopes they now use to compensate for the loss in central vision caused by the disease.

The miniature telescope contains two lenses that work with the cornea to create a magnified image that's projected onto a wider area of the retina, improving central vision, according to the Saratoga, California-based company. It does not work in patients who are blind.

The Food and Drug Administration's ophthalmic devices panel was meeting Friday to discuss whether to recommend approving the device. The FDA usually follows the recommendations of its outside panels of experts, but isn't required to do so. *AP*

'Rebels' prepare to meet GMA after plotting

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AFTER FINALIZING COUP PLANS SET for Feb. 24, Scout Rangers officers sat down with members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) to discuss President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the latter's headquarters set for Feb. 25—the day after the failed coup.

To this day, Ms Arroyo's planned visit to the Scout Rangers headquarters has not pushed through.

Earlier, the same Scout Rangers officers were finalizing plans to bring troops to Edsa in the morning of Feb. 24 to join the Marines and the Philippine National Police Special Action Force and to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo there.

Secret meeting all over

A draft report prepared by an eight-man military fact-finding board said that since late last year, Scout Rangers officers have been secretly meeting in hotels, beach resorts, malls and even in their headquarters in Camp Tecson, San Miguel, Bulacan to plot Ms Arroyo's ouster.

According to the report, the key players in the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSSR) were former commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, former chief of staff Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, battalion commander Lt. Col. Edmundo Malabanjot, former operations chief Maj. Jason Aquino, another former operations chief Maj. Oriel Pangcog and Capt. Dante Langkit.

As early as Feb. 3, Aquino had presided over a secret meeting among the Scout Rangers at the rest house of Capt. Montano Almodovar near the FSSR's Tower Area, to plan an assault of the military general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo and the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Between Feb. 21 and 22, rebel soldiers had a pivotal meeting at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Pasay City. In attendance were a number of Army and Marine officers led by Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin. All of them reportedly came in civilian clothes.

"The topic was on the proposal to Gen. Senga [to lead] the withdrawal of support," the report said.

Apparently, the Scout Rangers officers decided not to go ahead with the planned assault of the two military camps and instead, opted to ask Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to lead the withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo.

Meeting with PSG

On Feb. 22, a number of Scout Rangers officers, including Lim, were already in Metro Manila, having given various excuses to leave their headquarters although the military was under red alert.

In the afternoon of Feb. 22, Lim called up his chief of staff, Flordeliza, and told him to rush back to Camp Tecson and preside over a security conference on the President's scheduled visit on Feb. 25.

Ms Arroyo was supposed to witness the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Manila Banking Corp. and the Armed Forces where the bank would donate a 1,600-hectare lot for the soldiers' housing.

Flordeliza and other Scout Rangers officers sat down with representatives of the PSG, the Presidential Management Staff and the National Housing Authority on Feb. 24 at 9:30 a.m.

After the conference, Flordeliza called up Lim to report on what transpired in the conference and immediately returned to Fort Bonifacio.

Later, when investigators asked Flordeliza why he left Camp Tecson, he said he was following up his retirement application and that Lim had asked him to bring his "black suit."

Meeting with Senga

Meanwhile, Scout Rangers officers involved in the coup plot were anxiously waiting for results of Lim and Querubin's talk with Senga.

According to the report, Senga met with Lim and Querubin, who were accompanied by Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, the deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J2) at 7 p.m. on Feb. 23 in his office at the General Headquarters building in Camp Aguinaldo.

By then Lim had already taped a video declaring his withdrawal of support from a "bogus president."

The video surfaced only last July 3.

After his meeting with Lim and Querubin, Senga took two hours before he convened the major service commanders to counteract the planned mutiny.

Asylum could be Bolante's defense vs deportation

From page A1

asked by an associate of Bolante, whom he described as "a common friend," to visit the latter at the detention center.

When asked if the associate was Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Mosqueda paused and said: "It doesn't serve any purpose to name names."

Bolante left the Philippines last year, after snubbing repeated summonses to a Senate inquiry into the disbursement of fertilizer funds to administration allies, purportedly to help ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 presidential election.

On July 7, he flew into Los Angeles from Seoul supposedly carrying a cancelled B1/B2 visa, and was arrested by US immigration authorities at the airport.

Mike Arroyo was earlier reported to have left for San Francisco, triggering speculation that his trip was related to Bolante's arrest.

But reliable sources yesterday told the INQUIRER in Manila that Mike Arroyo had yet to return to the Philippines since accompanying his wife on her recent official trip to Europe.

One source said it was the First Couple's elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, who left for San Francisco via Philippine Airlines on July 11.

Mike Arroyo's chief of staff, Juris Soliman, said his boss was in San Francisco to join Mikey and the latter's family on a vacation.

"FG (First Gentleman) [flew] directly from Europe to San Francisco on July 9," Soliman said, adding that his boss would be back in time for the President's State of the Nation Address on July 24.

Soliman referred the INQUIRER to lawyer Antonio Zulueta for details. But Zulueta—who represented Bolante in the Senate investigation on the fertilizer fund scam and Mike Arroyo's brother, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, in the "Jose Pidal" inquiry—would not respond to calls on his phone.

No record of Bolante

Elaine Komis, a spokesperson for the US Department of Justice agency that manages immigration courts, said Bolante's name was not in any of their records.

"There's no record [of Bolante] at this time," said Komis, public affairs specialist for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), which looks into the cases of persons put in removal proceedings.

Bolante remains in the custody of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE) at the San Pedro Detention Center.

He is undergoing deportation proceedings for charges of immigration violation, according to USICE spokesperson Lori Haley.

"There are no new developments in the case. [Bolante] is still being processed for removal pending review of his case," Haley told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Shusterman, a top immigration specialist in Los Angeles, said it was possible that Bolante's case had yet to be forwarded to the EOIR because he could be applying for asylum. The EOIR schedules such hearings.

No intention

In Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said it had no intention to keep Bolante's arrest under wraps.

Speaking briefly on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said embassies had to follow certain procedures in processing information before transmitting this to the department.

A spokesperson of the US Customs and Border protection had earlier said the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles was informed of Bolante's July 7 arrest on the same day by fax and phone.

But the DFA told reporters in Manila of Bolante's arrest only on July 12, and only when the reporters sought comment on reports on the arrest.

De Castro asked Asuque what took the DFA so long to announce Bolante's arrest.

Asuque explained that Bolante was arrested by immigration authorities on July 7, which was a Friday in the United States and Saturday in the Philippines.

He said the DFA had to wait for the official report of the embassy but that this was delayed because there was no work on weekends.

Public interest

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero called on the US Embassy in Manila to reveal who was behind the cancellation of Bolante's visa.

"Bolante's case is already a matter of public interest. I think the US Embassy should immediately disclose what happened," Escudero said.

The embassy has maintained silence on the matter. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Nikko Dizon, Cynthia D. Balana, and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila*

How Muslims . . .

From page A1

dation Inc. (PCFI), interfaith dialogues and other conflict-prevention initiatives are being held not only in the war-torn areas of Mindanao but also in the very places where displaced Muslims have settled—but are not exactly welcome.

The PCFI found one such place in Barangay 188, Phase 12, in Tala, Caloocan City, where roughly 20 percent of the 5,000-plus resident families are Muslim.

Suburban tension

In a documentary video launched last Wednesday, PCFI founder and executive director Marites Africa depicted the village as an example of the suburban tension that could arise among residents of different faiths.

The 40-minute video does not show any street riot, verbal spat, or violent image, but is nonetheless disturbing: Christian residents of Tala say on camera what they generally think of the Muslims in their midst.

"I'm afraid of them," confides one woman.

For two male residents, the Muslims are "probably members of the Abu Sayyaf" and "connected to the terrorists."

Without their knowing, these locals have provided a face to published surveys and studies showing how anti-Muslim biases persist in workplaces, schools, and communities at large.

Neither did the Muslim residents interviewed for the documentary hide their own sentiments toward Christians.

"We came here to look for jobs, not for trouble," says a man who moved to Tala in the 1990s. "But our neighbors think we're up to no good, and I feel that if they can actually make a petition for us to leave, they would have done so long ago."

A Muslim housewife says her husband, who had managed to find a job as a security guard, was fired because his employers began "suspecting him to be a rebel."

A Muslim convert identified in the video as Yusuf complains that "everywhere we go, it is thought that we bring criminality along with us."

A woman named Hannah says that whenever she leaves the house wearing a veil, she can hear behind her back people calling her a "*madre* (nun)" or an "Abu Sayyaf."

Nightly gunfire

Africa, a candidate for a master's degree in theology at the Ateneo de Manila, later shared with the INQUIRER other realities about Barangay 188 that the video may not have captured.

Before the PCFI conducted projects there, she said, the village had become a place that "tricycles dared not enter" and where residents were afraid of being outdoors after dark.

"Gunfire could be heard almost nightly," she said. "Street crimes were rampant but mostly went unreported to the police."

On top of that, she said, the *ridos* and clan wars among the Muslims themselves occasionally erupted in the area, adding to its notoriety.

For two years starting October 2003, the PCFI conducted weekly interfaith dialogues for both Muslim and Christian residents who were interested.

Aside from these forums that mainly dealt with religion, there was a separate monthly session on building relationships, "fear management," or livelihood skills.

Values and ideals

The interfaith talks were held every Friday and attendance was irregular, but Africa said she counted at least 38 adult residents, 60 percent of them Muslim, who consistently showed up.

Discussions mainly revolved around the "values and ideals" shared by Islam and Christianity, as well as their differences.

"How come Muslims don't eat pork? How do [the two faiths] differ with regard to marriage? Who is Jesus for the Christians and for the Muslims? Things like that," Africa said in reference to the points of discussion.

After two years of dialogue, Barangay 188 is now "a better place," she reported. "It's more peaceful. Tricycles are no longer afraid to enter."

And since neighbors of both faiths had also been taught how to organize, they gained better representation before the local government and were able to secure more street lights and a steady water supply, Africa said.

"You have to remove that fear and bring the goodness out of people," she said, as though summing up the PCFI's work at Tala.

For the first time

The video launched last week—titled "In the Light of the Crescent Moon"—was a PCFI project in partnership with the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA)-National Capital Region.

Among its closing images is that of a Christian woman entering a mosque "for the first time in my life"—and being visibly thrilled with the experience.

Another shot shows a Muslim woman teaching a Christian neighbor how to wear the *malong*.

"Problems of conflict and violence [between Muslims and Christians] don't only come from Mindanao. Though much have been done over there, in our desire to be more proactive we are also taking the effort to Metro Manila," Africa said.

Expat Pinoys . . .

From page A1

Global Filipinos Coalition, the umbrella organization of the 100 biggest online communities of overseas Pinoys, last week submitted a proposal to the Charter Change Advocacy Commission, chaired by Jose Abueva, to allow dual citizens to run for public office. They also sought to recognize the 12-million-strong overseas Pinoy sector as a legislative district with direct representation in parliament, if the country changes to a parliamentary system.

Along with Lito Gutierrez, editor in chief of Philippine News, the largest Filipino newspaper in the US, Barrios sat down with Abueva and five other members of the Charter Change Commission to discuss their proposal for "direct proportional" representation if ever the Philippines shifts from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

In a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER newsdesk last week, Global Filipinos chair Victor Barrios lamented that the proposed revisions on the Philippine Constitution at present would reduce offshore Pinoys—who pump in over $10 billion (P524 billion) in remittances to the country each year—into third-rate citizens.

"We want it enshrined in the Philippine Constitution that once a Filipino, always a Filipino unless you specifically renounce citizenship," Barrios said. "There are those who sneer that since global Filipinos have left the country, they should not bother about its governance. We say that our hearts, minds and pocketbooks have never left the country."

"If we have equal rights and we are proposing proportional representation, it means for every 250,000 Filipinos (per local district), there's one member in Parliament. Please give us the same place," he said.

Filipino district

Barrios and Gutierrez are co-convenors of the coalition's Global Forum on the Constitution whose motto is to ensure a "lasting bond" between Filipinos wherever they are and their motherland.

According to Barrios, Abueva appeared sympathetic to the proposal for direct proportional representation and had asked the coalition to submit background information on other countries using a similar framework.

"It's radical but it's not unique. The European Union with 25 members has supranational citizenship and any citizen of a member-state can run for office," Barrios said. "In the Commonwealth of Nations, with 53 member-countries, any citizen of any member can run in the United Kingdom or other country."

But instead of awaiting a specific territory, such as Daly City in the US, to garner sufficient Filipino populace to qualify as a legislative district, the coalition has an alternative.

"Rather than having specific districts... perhaps Filipinos outside the Philippines could be one homogenous district," Barrios said.

Seeking a voice

The convenors stressed that the government would have everything to gain and nothing to lose under their proposal for inclusion in the legislature. "What we're saying is that since we're Filipinos, please give us the opportunity to be represented in the legislature and the fiscal effect is positive, not negative, because we don't need roads, bridges, hospitals or schools," Barrios said.

"What we need is high-level representation for the protection of rights, social issues which require very little port barrel or no pork barrel at all," he said.

Getting due recognition from their own homeland, Barrios said, would be important even before overseas Filipinos could gain more political clout in their host countries.

The convenors noted that even absentee voting was suffering from a low turnout because the rules were too tight and discouraging to overseas Pinoy voters. They cited, for instance, a provision requiring voters to make a commitment to return to the Philippines permanently in three years' time before they would be considered as eligible to vote.

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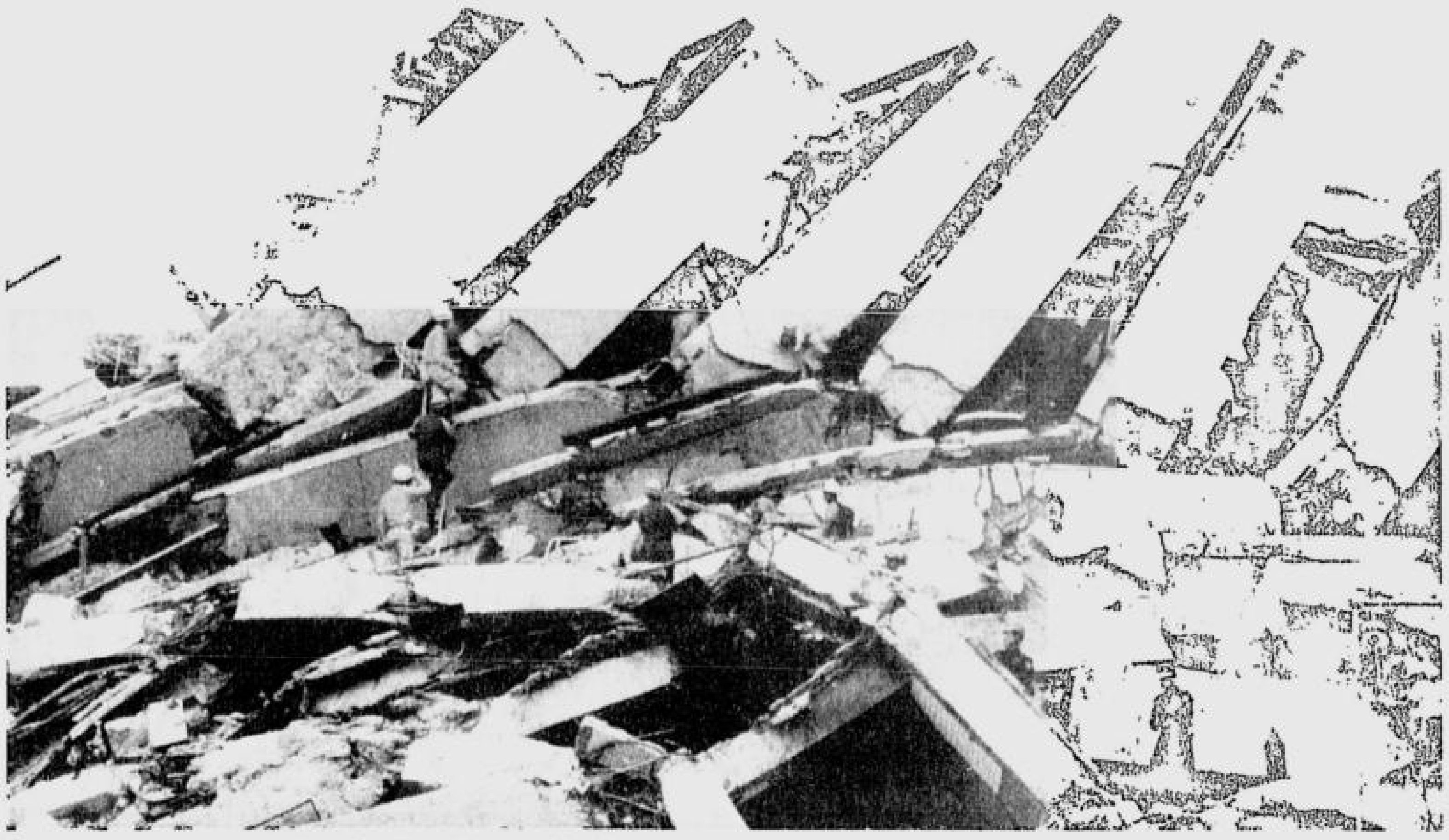

LIKE AN ACCORDION, the luxurious Hyatt Terraces Hotel, crumbled after the 7.8 magniture quake rocked Baguio City. Rescuers worked day and night through the wreckage to look for survivors. Ninety eight people employees and guests died here. PDI PHOTO

Hyatt survivor keeps gratitude journal

From page A1

for the Peninsula Hotels, memories of the 1990 earthquake that buried her friends and guests at the Hyatt Terraces Hotel in Baguio City have not left her.

Ortega can still rattle off every detail, every name like they were part of her day's agenda. In a phone interview with the INQUIRER squeezed in between a lunch meeting and a conference call to London, she easily recalls those near-death moments.

DANTE PERALTA/CONTRIBUTOR

"WHERE I WAS TRAPPED," Therese Necio-Ortega, then press relations officer, points to the spot at the Hyatt Hotel that may well have been her gravesite. She now keeps an gratitude journal.

12 people gone in 2 minutes

"I remember very clearly... All the people I left in that room died," she says. Twelve colleagues gone in two minutes.

It was around 4 p.m., July 16, 1990. The then 27-year-old Necio, then with the press relations office of the Hyatt Terraces, had called a meeting with the hotel's banquets and food and beverage (F&B) officers at the executive office on the second floor. They were preparing for the 10th anniversary of the casino, and people were very busy. So busy, they had to move the meeting to 4:30 p.m.

Richie Tomada, the banquet manager, jokingly shooed Ortega away, insisting she go ahead to the casino manager's office on the third floor. She obliged, not knowing Tomada's suggestion would save her life.

"I even teased her that perhaps they wanted me out of the room so they could all talk about me," she says, laughing almost painfully at the recollection.

Under narra table

Nobody had a chance to talk for long. A magnitude 7.8 quake shook and twisted the whole building. Seconds before the hotel crashed, casino manager Agapito Valencia shoved Ortega under a narra table. The space could only fit one. The table withstood the beams that collapsed.

From the third floor, Ortega crashed to the ground floor mezzanine. She spent two hours pinned down by the rubble, with only her face showing.

"I knew I was going to die. I knew it when I saw my whole life flashed before me. I saw my graduation pictures from St. Theresa's College, and then from UP I was praying and ready to die," she says.

Valencia, who was found by rescuers first, asked people to look for Ortega. When they saw her condition, they had to find the smallest engineer to get into the crack and pull her out. The guy was Tony Nab-Ali, a 4'9" engineer of Igorot descent. He wrenched Ortega out of the rubble.

The first thing Nab-Ali asked Ortega was whether he should look for her legs, which he assumed had been cut by the impact.

A rag doll

"I was carried like a rag doll," the 5'4" Ortega recalls. Miraculously, she suffered no cuts but was literally black all over with bruises.

Ortega was brought to the Ifugao garden beside the hotel car park where her secretary, Bing Torres, massaged her legs until they started feeling a tingling sensation. In less than an hour, Ortega was back on her feet and, being one of the few hotel managers who had survived, was tasked to oversee the recovery operations and handle the media.

The quake had cut off Baguio from the rest of the province, and rescue and treatment were very difficult. At 7 p.m., she had to call a doctor to operate on a guest whose eyeballs had popped out.

Hotel toll: 98 dead

The emergency surgery was done on top of a van, the only light source coming from the headlight of another car.

After two weeks of search, Hyatt closed its casualty count at 98 employees and guests dead. They were among the more than 1,000 people who died in Luzon as a result of the quake.

"I have many people to thank, that's why I'm willing to do this," Ortega says of the interview. She has barely spoken about the incident to her colleagues even after 16 years.

"I want to share with everybody that in times of crisis, some people can be so selfless they would think of you first. And I should also be willing to do that for others," she says.

"If you didn't do what you had to do, there's no closure. But if you did your best ... it will not haunt you," she says.

Ortega has since moved on, ending a 12-year stint with the Hyatt Hotel in 2000 to work with JW Marriot. Two weeks ago, she joined The Peninsula Hotels. She married her boyfriend from the 1990s, Joey Ortega, and they now have a daughter. At 12, she is well aware of the miracle that saved her mother.

Ortega has supervised recovery operations and press relations for different disasters, like the fire at the Hyatt Hotel in Manila, an earthquake in Japan, a super typhoon in Guam. Having survived one disaster herself, she has found handling similar situations second nature to her.

Wherever she goes, Ortega does not fail to go to church on Sundays, as she will do today. Even now, she prays for the 12 people she had left in that executive room in the decimated Hyatt Terraces of Baguio.

"It's part of my journey in life," she says.

Dreams of Vincent

For a while, she had recurrent dreams of one of her friends who died in the quake. Hyatt assistant F&B manager Vincent Rodriguez would pop in at the door and ask her to have lunch, as he always did when he was alive and they were both working for Hyatt. Then, she often declined, citing all the work she had to finish.

Surviving the earthquake has given the workaholic Ortega a stronger sense of purpose and balance. She now pauses to appreciate the little things people take for granted. It has also made her more grateful.

For better world

"I try to make sure things are done, even in ending an argument with people you love or finding a conclusion to something," she says. "If I've annoyed somebody in doing my job, which can't be avoided, I try to make amends before the day ends."

She is a lector for St. Joseph's church in Hong Kong and does volunteer work for the Philippine consulate, helping in outreach programs for domestic helpers, counseling, teaching them small skills. She was also a volunteer for the overseas absentee voting.

"Time is the most valuable asset I have and the most little I can share... so I try to do things that make me or the community whole," she says. "I always feel that if you can convince others to do more, the world will be a better place."

What to do in case an earthquake hits

By Cyril L. Bonabente
PDI Research

YOU ARE INSIDE A BUILDING when the earthquake strikes. What should you do?

The best thing to do is to duck, cover and hold, says Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. You can take cover under a sturdy table or in a doorway to shield yourself from falling objects.

When under a table, hold on to it to make sure it does not move away from you, Solidum adds. You should keep your eyes open and stay alert to avoid getting hit by falling or sliding objects.

If there is no table or doorway nearby, you can either get a chair or any furniture that can cover your head, or use your arms as protection.

'Triangle of life'

Solidum urges people not to believe the "Triangle of Life" article circulating in the Internet. The article claims that during an earthquake, people should curl up in a fetal position beside—not under—objects like tables, supposedly because "the weight of the ceilings falling upon the objects or furniture ... crushes these objects, leaving a space or void next to them."

Solidum explains this method assumes that ceilings collapse in one piece. He stresses that in most cases, ceilings collapse piece by piece. It is these falling pieces that people should avoid.

He also disputes the article's claim that "people who get under objects, like desks or cars, are always crushed." Solidum cites the case of Sonia Roco, wife of the late Sen. Raul Roco, who survived the 1990 earthquake by going under a table.

What if an earthquake occurs while you are in a weak building?

"The duck, cover and hold method still applies. Trying to get out of the building is dangerous, with objects falling and sliding every where," Solidum says.

Other tips

Here are other tips taken from Phivolcs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, www.earthquakesolutions.com and the Automobile Club of Southern California:

If you are inside a building:

- Stay there and cover your head with your arms. Protect yourself from falling debris by positioning yourself in a strongly supported doorway, under a sturdy table or against an inside wall within three seconds or less. If you cannot find a table or doorway immediately, cover your head with your arms then crouch in an inside corner. Stay there until the shaking stops.

Center of room

- However, when a house falls over during an earthquake, doorways are frequently more impacted than other areas of the house. In severe earthquakes, the center of the room is usually a safer place than doorways. There are exceptions to this. People in un-reinforced brick buildings, in a building with two or more stories, or in an apartment that may implode due to heavy weight should not consider the middle of the floor as a safe place.
- Stay away from glass, windows, mirrors, outside doors and walls, and anything that can fall.
- Do not use the elevators.

If you are outside:

- Go to an open area. Steer clear of power lines, posts, walls and other structures that may fall. Stay away from buildings with glass panes.

On the road

- When driving, decrease speed gradually and pull to the side of the road and stop. Avoid stopping near buildings, trees and utility wires. Do not attempt to cross bridges or overpasses. Stay inside the vehicle and keep your seatbelt fastened.
- If you are on a mountain, move away from steep slopes.
- If you are along the shore, run toward higher ground.

When trapped under debris:

- Do not light a match. Do not move about or kick up dust.
- Cover your mouth with a piece of cloth.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle, if available. Shout only as a last resort, because you might inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

Few lessons learned from killer quake

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE JULY 16, 1990 Luzon earthquake is being commemorated here today as a matter of routine, giving the impression that whatever opportunities the tragedy has opened to improve the summer capital are fleeting or have been squandered.

It was 16 years ago today when two successive quakes rocked Nueva Ecija, sank parts of Dagupan City and nearly wiped out Baguio City from the map.

Almost two decades after the tragedy, Baguio, Dagupan and Cabanatuan , with populations of between 200,000 and 300,000, are still beset by traffic jams, towering buildings, squatting problems and receding tree covers.

But records of a planning congress and testimonies from residents, who participated in rebuilding Baguio, show that the twin earthquakes have changed a lot about the city, even if hardly anyone realizes it.

Very conservative

Anna Mendoza, a 56-year-old vendor, said she understands why people here would rather forget the horrors of the quakes.

"I have been selling here for years, and I notice how people have changed after the quake. Maybe they don't notice it. Baguio has become very conservative. To them, anything new is threatening, so they fight to stop flyovers, they fight to stop lotto and the new malls," Mendoza said.

She is referring to stories of how often Baguio's oldtimers have come out in the streets to object to the development of Camp John Hay, the construction of a flyover near Kennon Road and the reintroduction of state lottery and a casino.

To many people like Mendoza, projects which have caught the locals' ire are signs of progress and, says a city councilor, "an assurance that Baguio has climbed out of the abyss."

Vision for Baguio

Like most people looking at Baguio from the outside, Mendoza is misinterpreting the city's resistance to change.

Baguio's oldtimers and Ibaloi families believe things should be kept as they are in Baguio, in line with a 1990 civil society commitment to restore the original Baguio community of Ibalois and migrants who had flocked to the city designed by the American colonial government in 1909.

Over 200 civic leaders, social activists and artists set down these "lifestyle" standards when they drafted the "Statements of Vision" for the city during a congress in 1990.

The visions articulated the residents' hope of restoring the city back to a "green, clean, safe environment," where every household enjoys basic social services and the community is built around a disciplined, self-reliant people "proud of their heritage."

These visions complemented the physical restoration plans developed by European experts, said urban planning expert Joseph Alabanza.

Need to expand

During the quake, Alabanza was the Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority who proposed to develop an economic sharing plan for Baguio and neighboring Benguet towns.

His key thesis was that Baguio had breached its capacity to provide adequate food, shelter and water to its growing population and must farm out its economic investments to these urbanizing towns where suburban communities can grow.

The NGO congress' vision sought to establish the city as primarily an education hub, instead of a tourism destination, and "as a spiritual center by 2000."

Part of the vision was that by year 2020, 60 percent of Baguio would be re-greened and only 10 percent of the city would be inhabited.

Limestone foundation

Alabanza said the physical restoration has not kept pace with Baguio's social change.

Migrants are still allowed to build houses on mountain slopes, blocking natural creeks and drainages, he said.

Buildings have also started to rise higher than the five-story ceiling proposed by urban planning experts concerned about the city's limestone foundations and underground fractures which became apparent after the 1990 quake.

But changes will happen, Alabanza said.

Dagupan, Cabanatuan

Dagupan's experience with liquefaction (when the ground liquefies and sinks) following the earthquake has given residents and officials a painful lesson.

The earthquake made them realize that the land they stood on was unstable and everything could just sink on the watery and sandy ground.

Having learned this lesson, the city government discouraged the construction of buildings more than three stories high, city administrator Rafael Baraan said.

Gonzalo Duque, president of the Lyceum Northwestern University, said the earthquake showed that the city was unprepared for a disaster of such magnitude.

"There were no earthquake drills or any preparations at all," Duque said.

In Nueva Ecija, the earthquake toppled the 6-story building of the Christian College of the Philippines in Cabanatuan and killed 133 students and teachers.

Provincial officials said the earthquake taught Novo Ecijanos to prepare for any big disaster by tapping rescue and medical volunteers.

Lessons learned

Former Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., chair of the inter-agency committee that documented the 1990 earthquake, said "to have learned nothing from the tragic events of July 16 would be callousness to the highest degree."

"To have done nothing to develop strategies to prevent injury and damage should another earthquake occur would be irresponsibility of the most serious proportions," he said.

Arturo Corpuz of the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning said the effects of the July 16 earthquake emphasized the importance of decentralizing and strengthening key utility systems, particularly those concerned with the delivery of water, power, transportation and communication services to large urban centers.

"The objective is to minimize the possibility of a total disruption of these services in the event of earthquakes," he said. *With reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

It'll be wet and dreary

THE WEATHER BUreau Pagasa expects monsoon rains to affect extreme northern Luzon and the western sections of northern and central Luzon because of the southwest monsoon.

Pagasa likewise forecast a wet and dreary Sunday for the rest of the country, expecting partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail over northern and western Luzon and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough, Pagasa said in its weather bulletin issued at 5 p.m. yesterday.

Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate blowing from the south and southeast with slight to moderate seas, it added.

Manila Bay will be slight to moderate.

Temperature range will be from 24 degrees Celsius to 20.9 degrees Celsius.

Sunrise today will be at 5:35 a.m. Sunset will be at 6:29 p.m.

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-Basic Image Setting by: Mr. Freddie Keto, Editor of Philprinting Magazine and BMW Commercial
-Technical & Product Presentation by: Copylandia
-Image Enhancement and Color Correction Using Adobe Photoshop by: Mr. Freddie Keto
-Production Flow & Proper Maintenance by: Mr. Paulito Mackarino, President of PDA Press
July 21, 2006, Friday (DAY 2)
Topics:
-Screen Printing Basics "Unlimited Opportunities" by: Mr. George Lina, President of Infinite Label
-Best of Both Worlds (Digital Flexibility with Offset Quality) by: Mr. Ariel Llanes, Marketing & Product Specialist of Graphic Sales Center, Inc
-Offset Lithography and Offset Inks by: Ms. Amor Ledesma, Technical Manager of Dainippon Ink & Chemicals, Inc
-Tips & Tricks in Printing Operation by: Mr. Adrian Litonjua, Product Manager-Sheet Fed Solutions of Heidelberg Philippines
-Closing Remarks by: Mr. Eladio Avila, Chairman of Printing Industries Association of Davao, Inc
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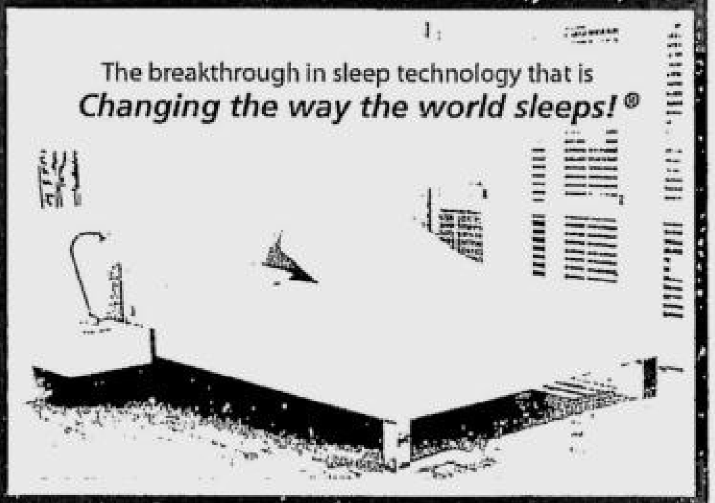

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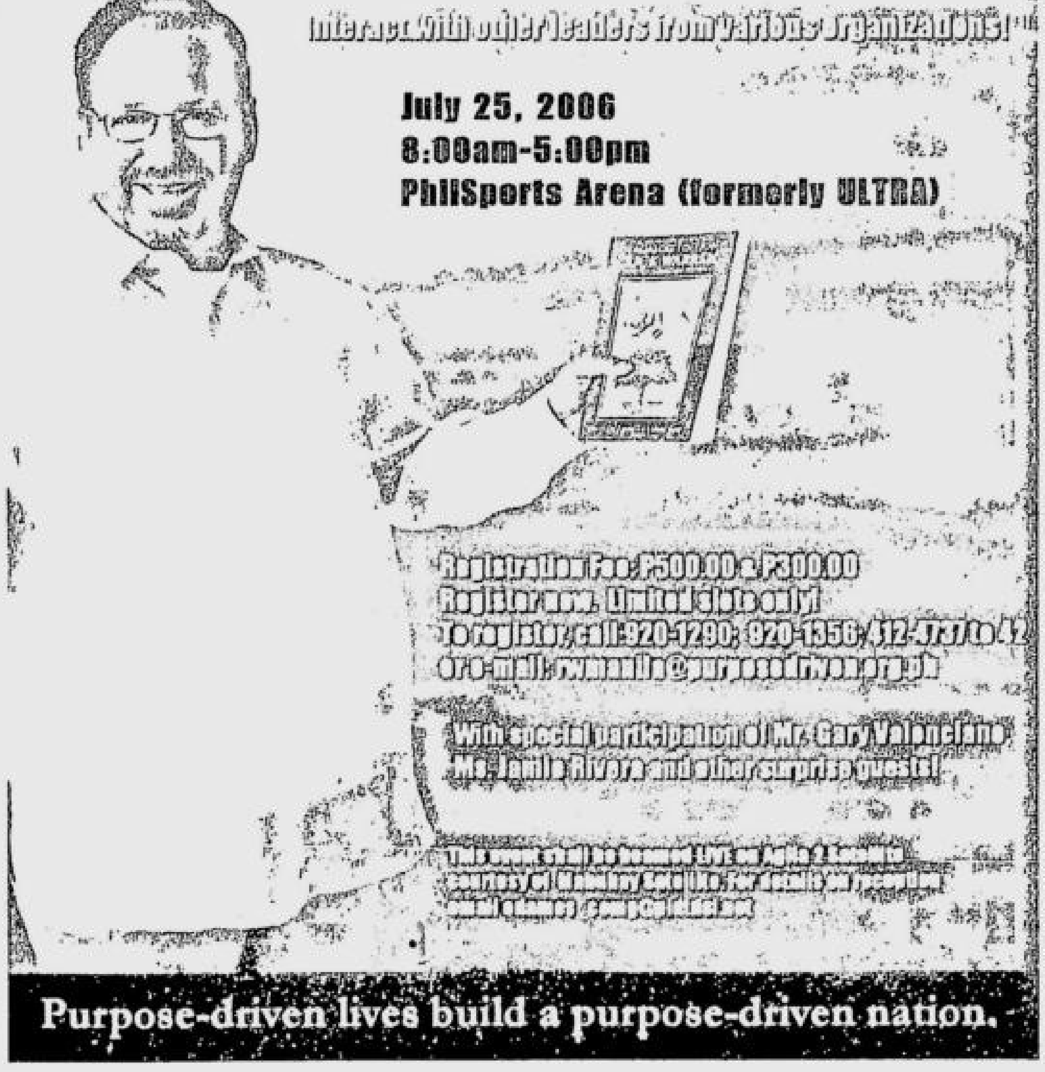

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DepEd protesters say they're willing to meet with Lapus

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION employees bucking the appointment of incoming Education Secretary Jesli Lapus are willing to discuss issues with him—but only after their nationwide protest actions on Tuesday.

"The dialogue will happen after our nationwide rally," DepEd National Employees' Union president Domingo Alidon said yesterday. He said union members and teachers would hold simultaneous rallies during their lunch break on Tuesday, gathering in at least 17 regional and 187 division offices all over the country.

Lapus had earlier expressed willingness to meet with the protesters, saying that with his credentials, he did not understand the objection to his appointment.

Nothing personal

But Alidon said in a phone interview: "We have nothing personal against Lapus. We just don't want a politician. We want an educator to be the next secretary."

He said he and his colleagues had had "bad experiences" with previous education secretaries who were also politicians, and cited the late Raul Roco as an example.

"Politicians tend to be dictatorial. There is also the risk of department funds being used for political purposes," he said.

The union wants DepEd officer in charge Fe Hidalgo as the next education secretary. Union members are said to be planning to barricade the DepEd compound when Lapus reports for work before the end of the month.

Alidon said, however, that the union was not entirely closing its door on Lapus.

"He should show us a plan of action. He should be sincere. His previous statements were antagonistic to us employees," Alidon said.

'Using Hidalgo'

In a press conference last week, Lapus asked the DepEd employees "to spare the department from the crossfire of politics."

He said that he was puzzled by the stiff opposition, and that the protesters could just be "using Hidalgo for their own agenda."

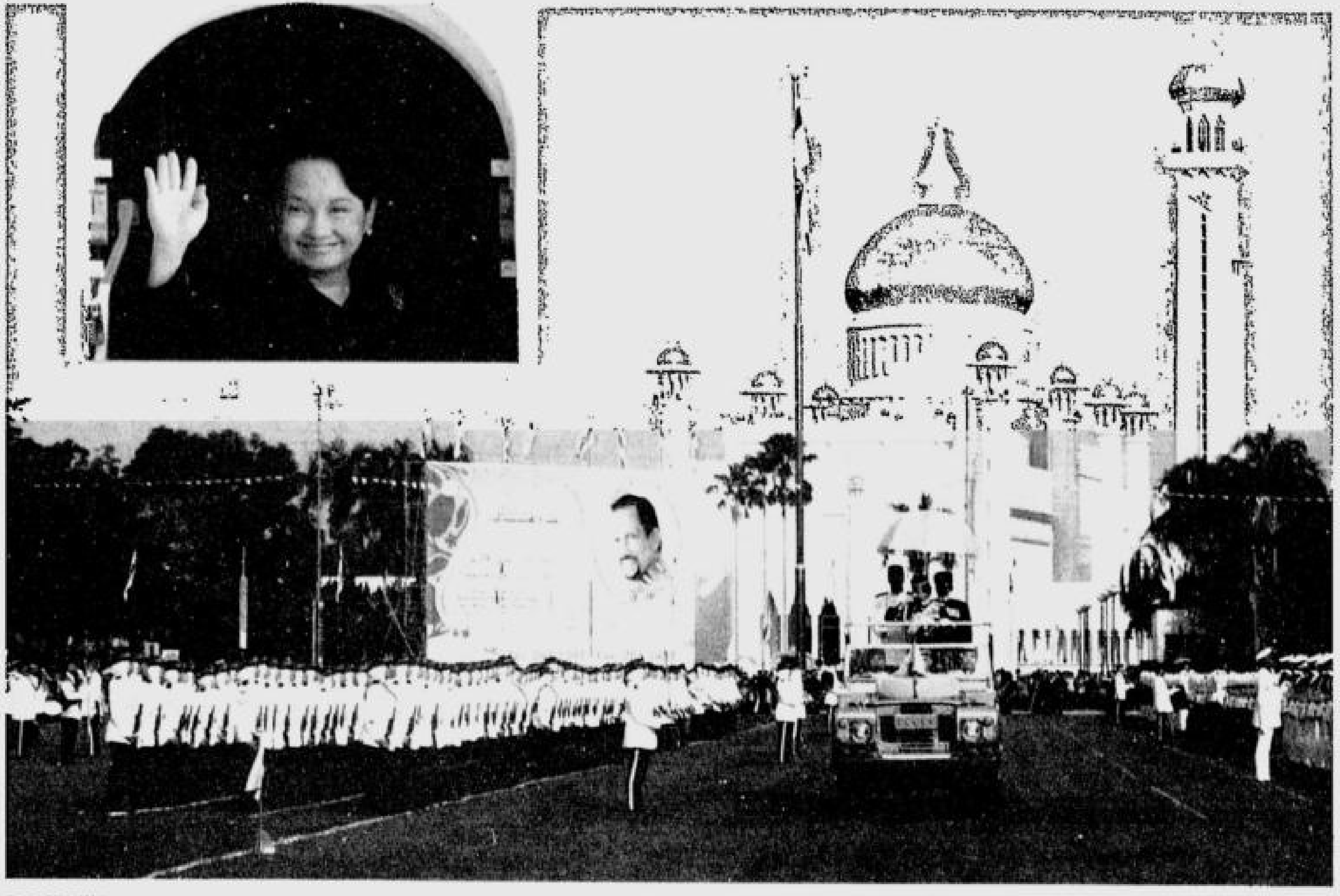
He added that Hidalgo had agreed to stay on as undersecretary.

Hidalgo had told the INQUIRER that she would stay for two more months to ensure a smooth transition and the continuity of programs.

At the same press conference, Lapus categorically denied plans of seeking an elective post next year. He said he would rather stay at the DepEd for at least three years.

But the union appeared disinclined to believe Lapus, especially when he, according to Alidon, denied having lobbied for the post that some perceive as a reward from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lapus, who described himself as a "management expert," spearheaded the passage of Ms Arroyo's fiscal reforms in Congress two years ago.



BRUNEI'S Sultan Bolkiah, right center in jeep, inspects his troops in Bandar Seri Begawan, Saturday on his 60th birthday. The celebration was attended by world leaders that include President Macapagal-Arroyo, shown inset upon her departure from Manila. LYN RILLON/AP

Sober speech at birthday bash

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—BRUNEI'S Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah used his birthday speech Saturday to call for economic diversification to ensure continued prosperity in the tiny oil-rich nation.

More than 2,000 foreign and local guests, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, gathered at a 1,700-room palace for the speech by the sultan, once rated as the world's richest man.

"Among the most important things is to ensure that the sources of oil and gas can continue to be enjoyed by the people," the sultan said.

"Along with that, economic diversification is also important for strengthening the country's survival, including an increase in foreign investment and a more eco-friendly policy."

The sultan, one of the world's longest-reigning monarchs who is also prime minister, defense minister, finance minister and head of Islam, spoke without a microphone in front of a golden canopy where his two wives sat.

Hassanal last year married Malaysian television news presenter Azrinaz Mazhar Hakim, 26. She bore him a son, his 11th child, last month.

The sultan's celebration was to continue into the evening with a state banquet attended by the leaders of the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia—and about 10,000 other guests, a government spokesman said.

The sultan was crowned on Aug. 1, 1968 and Brunei achieved full independence from Britain on Jan. 1, 1984.

Brunei, which occupies a sliver of Borneo island, is Southeast Asia's third-largest oil producer. It is also the world's fourth-largest producer of liquefied natural gas.

Official figures say the country had a population of about 341,000 in 2002, and the mineral wealth has brought the citizens one of the highest per capita incomes in Asia.

There is no personal income tax, and education and healthcare are free. Houses, cars and even pilgrimages to Mecca are subsidized.

Hassanal's Malay Muslim absolute monarchy dates back to the 14th century when his ancestors nominally controlled all of Borneo island and some parts of the Philippines' Sulu islands, according to official history.

Thousands of people, including school children waving flags, lined the streets to watch the sultan's cavalcade as he arrived at a city stadium for a ceremony earlier on Saturday.

"In Brunei, all men like the Sultan," Mohammad Akram Hossain, 34, said smiling beside the roadside earlier Saturday while he waited for the monarch's Rolls-Royce. *AFP*

GMA planning to go to Hawaii

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday bared her plans to go to Hawaii later this year to join the centennial celebration commemorating the arrival of the first Filipino workers in this islands-state.

The President bared her travel plans in her meeting with over 500 guests in Malacañang yesterday made up of Philippine ambassadors and consul and leaders of Filipino communities in the US and Canada.

Hawaii is currently in the midst of a year-long Filipino Centennial celebration to commemorate the legacy of the first 15 Filipino *sakadas* or farm workers.

The President met the mostly *balikbayan* Filipinos before she left for a three-day overseas trip to attend the 60th birthday celebration of Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and meet Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in a two-day state visit to Libya.

She told her audience that the "Philippines was at the crossroads of the political transformation and economic take-off" as she invited them to take advantage of the "innumerable business and investment opportunities worth exploring in the country."

Docs lament health budget, poor education, 'brain drain'

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE PHILIPPINE College of Physicians (PCP) has sounded the alarm on top health problems, such as the health sector's 1-percent share of the government budget, the exodus abroad of Filipino physicians and nurses, and the dismal quality of medical education.

According to the umbrella organization of internists with 6,600 members and 78 accredited training hospitals nationwide, the Philippines is so swamped with problems related to public health and the medical system that it is hard put to identify the No. 1 health issue.

Dr. Rene Juaneza, PCP national president, cited cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases as the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among Filipinos. He said there was an immediate need for a national program on preventive health care.

"The problem of health is the problem of different areas of government, but how can you move with a budget of 1 percent for health care?" said Dr. Anthony Leachon, chair of the PCP cluster committees and the committee on internal communications.

The World Health Organization recommends a health budget of 5 percent for Third World countries such as the Philippines.

5 major issues

Juaneza and Leachon were speakers at the launch of a partnership between the PCP-Panay Chapter and the Philippine Science High School Western Visayas last July 8 at the PSHS campus in Jaro.

In a presentation titled "The Philippine Health Situation and PCP's Advocacy and General Directions Toward Improving Health Care in the Country," the two doctors ticked off the five major health care issues:

- The mass departure of Filipino physicians and nurses, with 4,000 physicians migrating as nurses since the year 2000, and 5,000 physicians now enrolled in nursing schools all over the country.
- The deteriorating quality of medical education, with a 24-percent decrease in the number of National Medical Admission Test examinees despite the abundance of medical schools (36).

The PCP traced the deterioration to : admission of poor-quality students; lack of competent full-time faculty members; low pay, discouraging qualified ones from teaching; inadequate facilities and clinical exposure; antiquated system of education and examinations; and harsh financial realities confronting medical schools.

"There is also a dereliction of duty on the part of the Commission on Higher Education and other government agencies, as well as the indifference and ineffectiveness of medical associations and medical colleges to provide effective leadership," the doctors said.

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Luz quits Namfrel

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR ALMOST A DECADE, BUSINESSMAN Guillermo Luz served as secretary general for the election watchdog National Movement For Free Elections.

But months after joining the call last year for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, Luz finally resigned from Namfrel.

"I did not accept his resignation at first," Namfrel national chair Jose Concepcion Jr. told the INQUIRER. "But he said he felt there were other concerns he had to attend to," Concecpion added.

Luz filed his resignation letter as early as Jan. 17. But Concepcion announced the change to all his volunteers through a memorandum only last month.

Luz was with Namfrel since the 1995 elections until the controversial 2004 elections, when he was accused by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel of being a Canadian citizen. He neither confirmed nor denied the accusation.

Following the withdrawal of support of at least 10 cabinet members and appointees of Ms Arroyo last year (tagged as the Hyatt 10), Luz and the Makati Business Club also joined calls for Ms Arroyo to resign.

But Concepcion said Luz did not mention his political position as a reason for resigning from Namfrel, which is already preparing to file for accreditation before the Commission on Elections to be able to hold another quick count for the elections next year.

The national council of the poll watchdog has appointed Damaso Magbual as the new secretary general.

Magbual has been working for Namfrel since 1984 as deputy secretary general. He has also participated as election monitoring trainer and observer in several countries in Asia, Europe, America and Africa, Concepcion also said in his memorandum.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, July 16, 2006
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Amos 7:12-15

Call of Amos

Amaziah then said to Amos, "Off with you, seer, go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there by prophesying. But never again prophesy at Bethel for it is a king's sanctuary and a national shrine."

Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet or one of the fellow-prophets. I am a breeder of sheep and a dresser of sycamore trees. But Yahweh took me from shepherding the flock and said to me: Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 (or 1:3-10)

Christ's cosmic importance

Blessed be God, the Father of Christ Jesus our Lord,
who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing.
God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world
to be holy and without sin in his presence.
From eternity he destined us in love
to be his sons and daughters through Christ Jesus,
thus fulfilling his free and generous will.
This goal suited him:
that his loving-kindness which he granted us in his Beloved
might finally receive all glory and praise.
For in Christ we obtain freedom, sealed by his blood,
and have the forgiveness of sins.
In this appears the greatness of his grace,
which he lavished on us.
In all wisdom and understanding,
God has made known to us his mysterious design,
in accordance with his loving-kindness in Christ.
In him and under him God wanted to unite,
when the fullness of time had come,
everything in heaven and on earth.
By a decree of Him who disposes all things
according to his own plan and decision
we, the Jews, have been chosen and called
and we were awaiting the Messiah,
for the praise of his glory.
You, on hearing the word of truth,
the Gospel that saves you,
have believed in him.
And, as promised, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit,
the first pledge of what we shall receive,
on the way to our deliverance as a people of God,
for the praise of his glory.

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

Apostolic instruction

Jesus called the Twelve to him and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over evil spirits. And he ordered them to take nothing for the journey except a staff; no food, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals and were not to take an extra tunic.

And he added, "In whatever house you are welcomed, stay there until you leave the place. If any place doesn't receive you and the people refuse to listen to you, leave after shaking the dust off your feet. It will be a testimony against them."

So they set out to proclaim that this was the time to repent. They drove out many demons and healed many sick people by anointing them.

Commentary

Amos is rejected by the priests and he claims he was only a shepherd. But it is the Lord who took him from his flock and sent him to God's people. God's word is his reason/meaning and power base. We too have been chosen by God. In Jesus Christ, in our baptisms, to live the wisdom of understanding of the mystery of God's Word and to bring all to communion in Christ. This is why we were sealed in the Spirit. And Jesus sends us forth to live this as a radical sign of the presence of God in the world. We are to go two by two, go with only what we need for the day, live on the hospitality of others, and preach repentance. No matter who we are, we are always in need of repentance and that is the vow of our baptisms: to live always more in imitation of Jesus' obedience to God.

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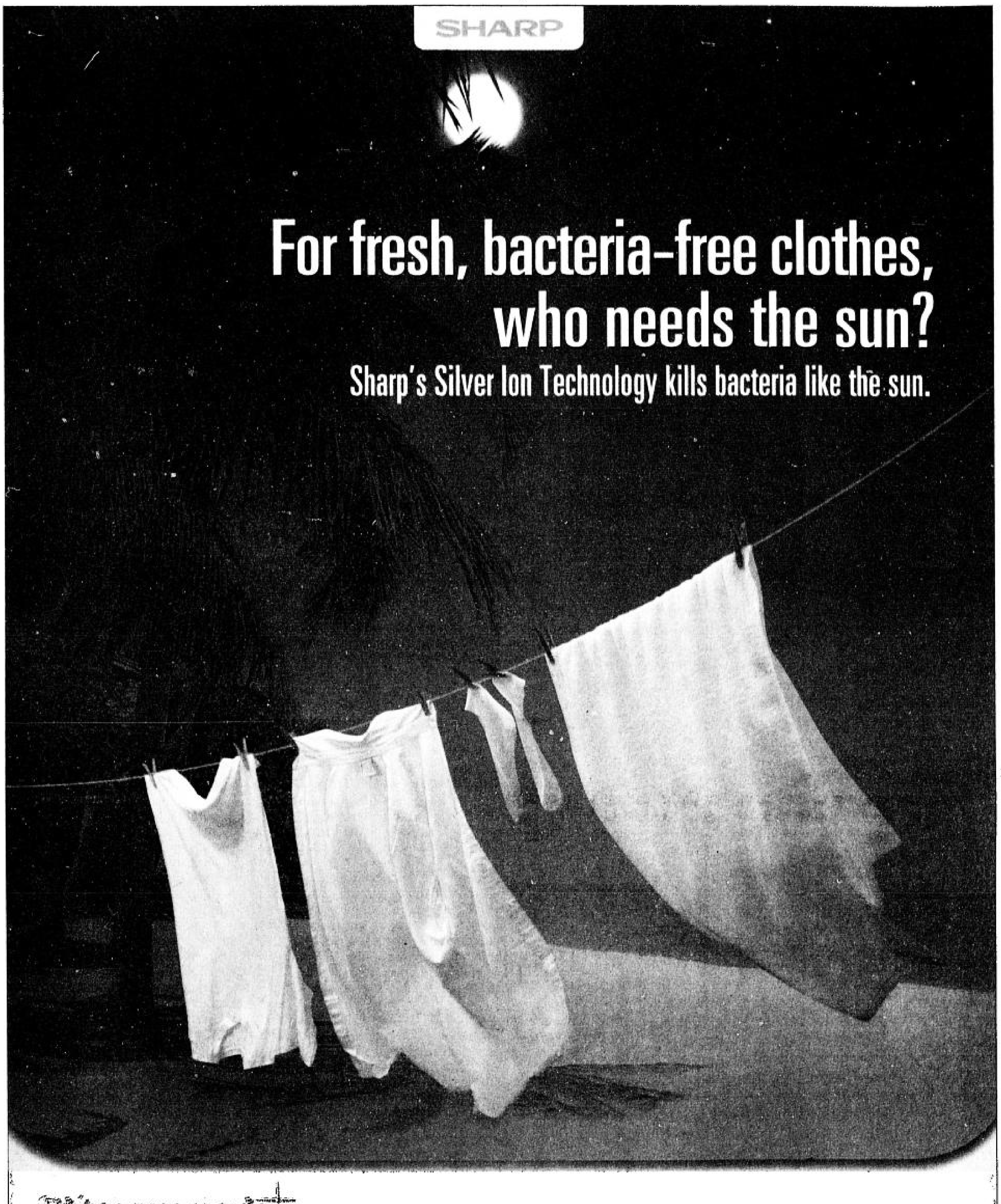
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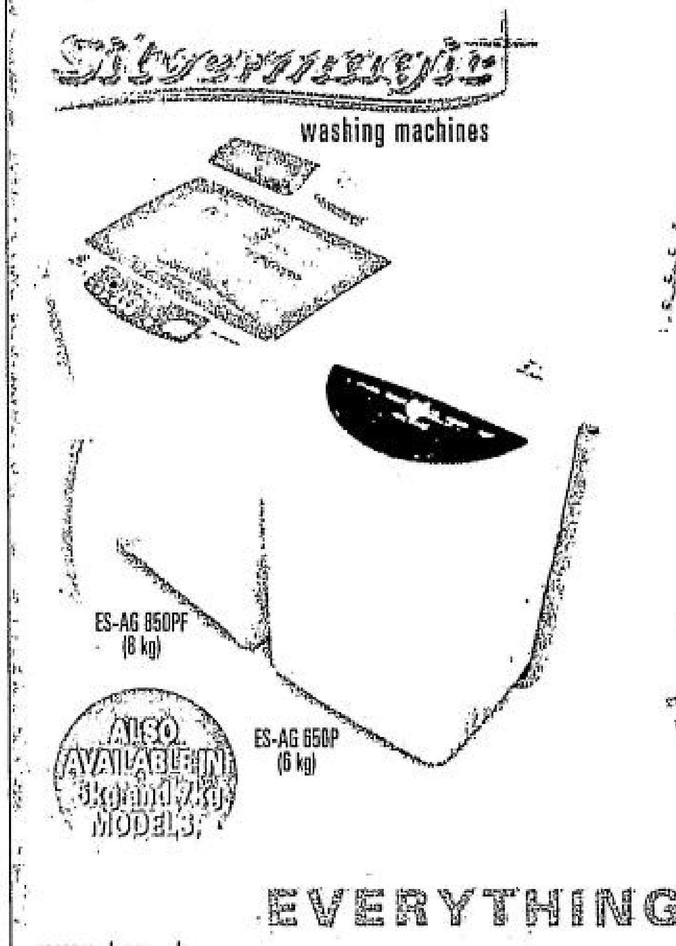

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OPINION

Howling wilderness

EDITORIAL

IT IS TIME, AGAIN, TO UPDATE EURIPIDES. THOSE whom the gods wish to destroy, they first smear with rumors. In the case of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the gods' method of choice was simple and familiar enough: the old envelope trick.

They or their messengers ("casual-looking" men, a CBCP insider described these modern-day versions of Hermes) handed out envelopes during the CBCP plenary assembly last week, to bishops who were either too deep in prayer or were too trusting of their fellowmen or (the likeliest explanation) were unaccountably forgetful of the lessons of the confessional. Most of the money, as far as we can tell, has since been returned or will be, soon—but the damning image of bribed bishops has already stuck.

That is the sorry truth. Even if none of the envelopes ever lined a bishop's miter, the damage has already been done. Even if the table talk at the "victory" dinner Palace officials hosted for some bishops immediately after the assembly turned out to be inconsequential, suspicion has already been cast. Now, the perception is unfortunate indeed: Even bishops, in Catholic faith the direct successors of the 12 apostles, are vulnerable to envelopes with money.

We cannot believe that this state of affairs is mere happenstance. As one of the more vocal prelates, anti-*jueteng* crusader Archbishop Oscar Cruz, suggested last week, the bishops' moral authority is the CBCP's "one and only source of influence." The surest way for Malacañang to counter that authority is to pollute the source.

Insinuation, innuendo, implication: All it takes to erode the moral high ground is to suggest that this vantage point is built not on stone but on shifting (even shifty) sand.

Think about it. The entire argument for coursing "livelihood" funds through bishops rests on faint praise: The bishops are damned by being treated like congressmen and other political operatives, who need cash gifts to oil the levels of power and patronage. After all, the argument continues, the bishops know their people's needs better than politicians; why not course aid or donations through them?

Thus are the bishops compromised—through a co-opting scheme disguised as an act of charity.

This deliberate undermining of the bishops' moral authority forces us to ask the essential question: Is the compromising of national institutions a principal policy of the Arroyo administration?

Consider the Commission on Elections. Under the extraordinarily obtuse chairmanship of Benjamin Abalos, the administration's pre-election appointees have managed to destroy the commission's credibility. President Macapagal-Arroyo's belated admission of a "lapse in judgment" when she acknowledged calling an election commissioner in 2004 to ostensibly protect her vote, has only deepened public skepticism about the fairness of the election process.

Or consider the armed services. The incoming chief of staff of the Armed Forces is a "Garci" general—that is to say, one of several high-ranking officials who are mentioned in the Garcillano wiretaps as participants in the alleged election fraud of 2004. As a result of this perception and of other inexplicable developments in the AFP, such as the much-delayed Mayuga report, the Armed Forces today seems as politicized as the early years of the Marcos regime.

Consider the Ombudsman, whose office was one of the proud innovations included in the 1987 Constitution. Granted extraordinary powers by the Charter's framers, today the Ombudsman under Ms Arroyo seems largely impotent, unable to summon the will to crack down on corruption at the highest levels of government.

Or consider the Senate. Designed to serve as a check on presidential power, the one chamber of Congress that seems to have the will to hold the President to account has been openly mocked and repeatedly ignored by Malacañang. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's brazen unwillingness to act on the Senate's arrest warrant against alleged fertilizer scam mastermind Jocelyn Bolante is only one of many possible proofs that, for the administration, the Senate is no longer a part of government.

Consider these and other compromised institutions, and the suspicion arises: In order to survive until the end of her term, the President seems ready to bring the country's institutions down to the level of the diminished presidency. That sound we hear? It is the winds howling, in an increasingly empty wilderness.

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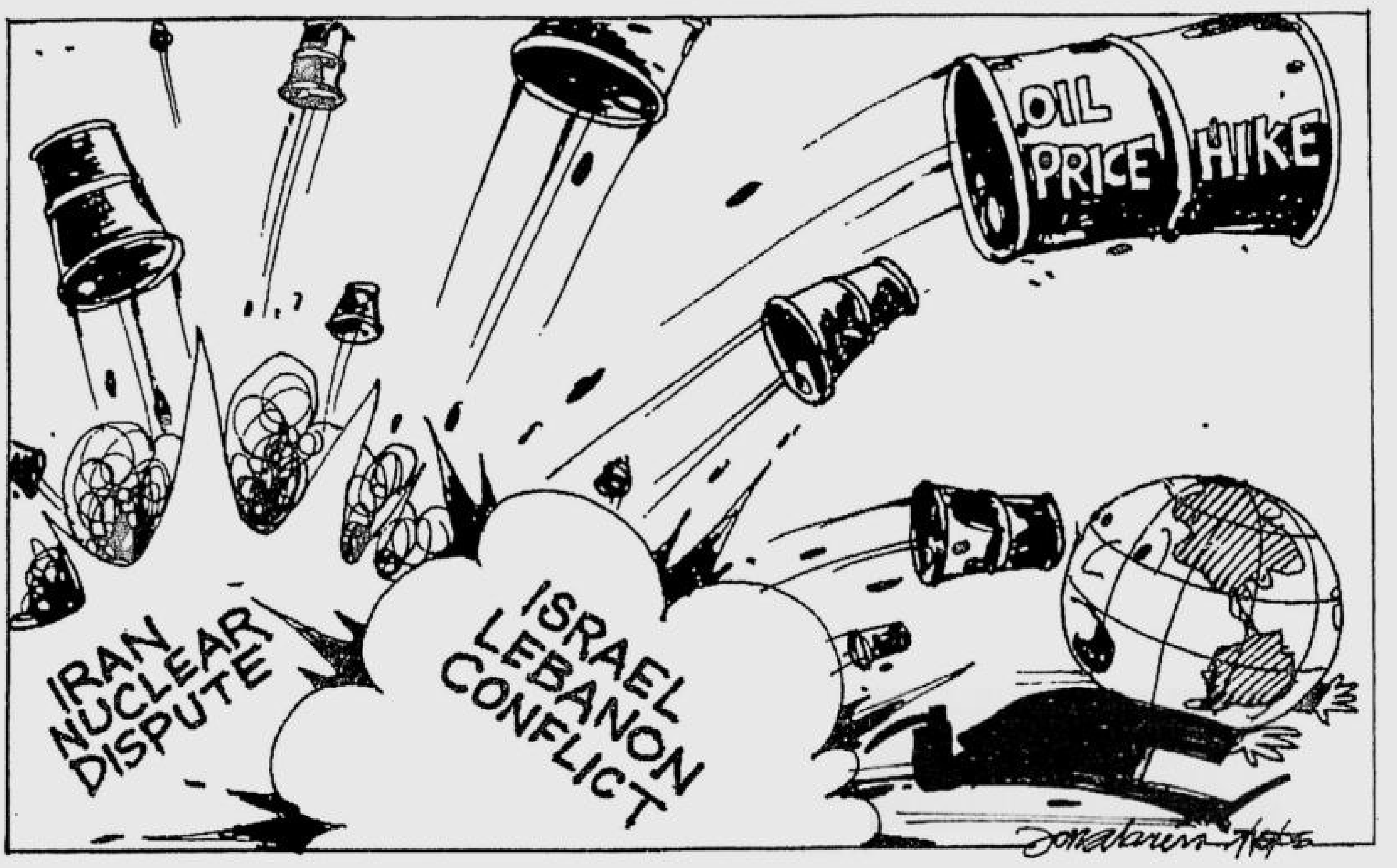

Just a pale copy

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE UNITED STATES PHYSICALLY SUBDUED us in 1898 and made our country its colony until 1946. In the process, it developed in us a mammoth inferiority complex that made our people idolize practically everything American.

Early during our subjugation, a pure-bred Filipino appointed to the first Philippine Commission slavishly declared: "I am an American and all the money in the Philippines, the air the light and the sun I consider American." That incredible toadyism continues to this day to disgrace many of our countrymen who are rhapsodized to be called the Yankee's "little brown brothers."

Mabini opposed American rule and was deported to Guam. Quezon entered the lion's den of the autocratic Governor-General Wood, who retreated. But few followed these stalwart leaders, preferring a more convenient *entente cordial* with the foreign carpetbaggers.

Soon after we became a republic, the new President Roxas fawningly committed the Philippines to follow in "the glistening wake of America whose sure advance with mighty prow breaks for smaller craft the waves of fear."

Recto, the Laurels, Tañada, Diokno and other nationalists protested but were ignored. Everybody should be an Amboy. The President of the Philippines always takes care not to displease the President of the United States. Congress patterns many of its bills after American statutes, and the Supreme Court still follows American jurisprudence like a lower court.

(Speaking particularly of our highest tribunal, I often criticized my colleagues for their reliance on—if not in fact allegiance to—the decisions of American jurists in resolving our own cases with their different local setting. I said we should make up our own minds according to our own needs, our own customs and traditions, and even our idiosyncrasies. But thinking for ourselves was rejected as anti-American.

With many of our people it was follow the leaders, or maybe it was the other way 'round. The green card has become the frantic obsession of Filipinos impatient to leave their native land for the greener pastures of California. A medical exam topnotcher here has left to be a nurse in America. A nephew of mine who vowed to serve our people **here** is earning oodles of dollars **there** as an anesthesiologist.

But it is not only for financial reasons that many Filipinos are fascinated by America. The United States is to them the best place to be and its people are the best people on earth. The entertainers are especially attractive. No one can beat Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe and all those beautiful people in Hollywood and Broadway.

Even the has-beens who can no longer earn a living there are madly welcomed here at much waste of our dollar reserves. The Philippines is a willing dumping ground for the rejects in the United States, including the obsolete rifles our soldiers used in defending Bataan with their intrepid American comrades-in-arms.

Sometime ago I noted that we have followed the Americans in celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day, and on the same dates they have chosen for these occasions. We could at least have fixed different dates for our celebrations from among all of the 365 days in the year, but we did not. That would have been disloyal to America.

I also observed that we have produced a Philippine Pie to imitate the American Pie movie and, soon to open, there will be a contest for the Philippine Idol similar to the American Idol in the land of the bold. During the '70s, we had cowboy pictures in the boondocks of Antipolo, with local gunfighters costumed a la Wyatt Earp at the OK Corral.

There must also be a Halloween in this tropical Philippines to follow the American holiday except that ours will have only artificial snow. We must have our phantoms, too, but of the American brand—no "*tikbalangs*" or "*mananggals*" for they are too **local**! The demons must be like the headless horseman that terrified Ichabod Crane but they will not frighten the children here, for a change, because our Darna will protect them.

And how about the blondies among our brown ladies who are using skin whiteners too to look as American as possible? The net result is ludicrous and also pathetic. The mellow tones of our *kayumangging kaligatan* are envied throughout the world, but our women prefer to be pale because that is how their Stateside idols look. Those suntan-lotioned ladies would rather be like their imitative naturally tanned admirers, who don't know when they're ahead.

Our people have much to be proud of but would rather ape other peoples. The Americans are a wonderful race, but so are we except that we don't realize it. Let's recognize and harness our virtues instead of simply imitating those of another country with a different culture from ours. It is always best to be original rather than just a pale copy.

Lean—and mean

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ACCORDING TO A TEXT MESSAGE I RECEIVED, it is not true that beer makes you fat. On the contrary, beer makes you lean—lean on walls, lean on doors and lean on people.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 6, 7-13), Jesus tells His disciples to lean not so much on worldly resources and provisions in their ministry but more on God's providence and power. He instructs His disciples to be lean—no food, no sack, no money in their belts, and not even a second tunic in their journeys. A disciple has to travel light, so that he/she can become an effective witness and "light of the world."

* * *

Fat is out, lean is in. As it was in Jesus' time, so it is in our time—disciples must not be encumbered by excess luggage and concerns as they go about their ministry. Once a disciple becomes "heavy," he/she loses his/her effectiveness and credibility. When people no longer see Jesus in you and me, it only means that we have ceased to become "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" because we have taken the road of comfort and easy compromise.

* * *

We are to preach the message of repentance. As prophets, we are to speak truthfully no matter who gets hurt or offended. We must not be bought, neither must we be silenced by gifts and favors. We must be faithful to Christ's message, and not adulterate it with our own agenda or inclinations. We must preach Christ so boldly that if we are rejected, we can "dust off our feet in testimony against them." If our message has lost its sting, maybe it is because we are no longer lean and, for fear of rejection, are no longer mean.

* * *

The "dynamics of giving and receiving" comes to fore again with the recent allegations about the giving of envelopes and favors to our bishops. If the allegations are true, shame on those who thought they could buy the bishops, and also on those who gave even the slightest impression that they could be bought. The message of Christ crucified is non-negotiable, in season, or out of season.

* * *

There are times when a shepherd must give out clear instructions and directions, not just inclinations, to his flock. When there are hungry wolves all around, the shepherd must use his staff to ward off the enemy, and to correct, direct and lead his flock. We need to hear clear marching orders especially when we are in clear and present danger.

* * *

A text message I received says: "When she cancels a date, it is because she has to; if he cancels a date, it is because he has two!" This underlines the fact that serving two masters or two-timing is not only dangerous to one's spiritual health; it also kills the spirit. May we all be steadfast and focused in our commitment to the Gospel values of love, sacrifice, honesty, truth and service.

* * *

I just visited Ms Adelaida Bondoc in Angeles City. She is the mother of Fr. Allan Bondoc, SVD, our young missionary in war-torn East Timor. One can never imagine the anguish of Mama Del worrying about the safety of her son. What touched me was when she said: "Seeing you and embracing you is like seeing and embracing my son Allan." True. We need others to lean on as we journey on. May we be open and available when others need someone to lean on.

* * *

Keep your eyes on Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we must be focused not on ourselves, for therein lies the danger of pride in our so-called achievements and the danger of discouragement in our weaknesses. Neither must we focus on the cheers or jeers of people around us, for always there will be people who will welcome or reject us and our message. It is the Lord whom we serve. Only Jesus. Always Jesus.

* * *

By the way, have you noticed how the truth and the agents of truth continue to surface no matter all the efforts to contain or muffle them? No amount of money, no amount of power and position can stop the truth from surfacing. Truth may be delayed or hidden for a while, but, it will surely surface. Pity the liars. They are always on guard. They are always scared. Our message to them: Learn from God, and lean on God.

* * *

"Lord, may everything we do begin with your inspiration, continue with your help and reach perfection under your guidance. Amen." If you can sincerely say this prayer about everything you do, then blessed are you.

* * *

We are all invited to do our mission for the Lord on this earth, in this short life. Again, what would it profit us if we gained the whole world, but in the end we lost our soul? And even now, what are we losing in our pursuit for worldly fame, riches and power? Some of us are already losing our name, our values, our principles, our loved ones, our peace, our health. Is it worth at all? What for?

* * *

Remember: Stay lean. Stay clean. Then you can say what you mean. Live in such a way so that nothing and no one can stop you from saying what you mean. Amen!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to lean on you, and not on my own understanding. Amen.

They are not criminals

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

WHEN WE RETURNED HOME FROM AN extended visit abroad, the first newspaper I picked up carried the photos of several men, dressed in yellow T-shirts, being presented to the media by AFP chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga. He was flanked by Philippine National Police chief Police Director General Oscar Calderon and Army commander Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. A quick glance at my TV set showed the same scene: men in yellow T-shirts being paraded before the media.

For a while, I thought it was a usual coverage of arrested suspects being presented by police officials who are eager to show they are on the ball, to the President or some Cabinet functionary. (Sometimes, those who are presented are suspected *jueteng* operators or gambling lords; at other times, they are captured bank robbers, car thieves or even rapists.) Then I realized that the men in yellow T-shirts were junior officers of the Magdalo group who had been arrested in an early morning raid in Quezon City. The news report on their capture noted that assorted firearms, hand grenades and explosive equipment were found inside the safe house where the officers were staying. A blueprint of the Batasan Pambansa complex was also found among the documents recovered from the group. By coincidence, President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to deliver her State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the Batasan on July 24.

Let me make a few observations on this event.

The junior officers arrested that day are not criminals. They do not deserve to be treated as such; and I was appalled that the AFP chief of staff, the PNP chief and the Army commander allowed themselves to be used in a photo opportunity that degraded and destroyed the dignity of these young officers. (Save this type of photo ops for bank robbers, gambling lords or rapists!) Whatever they have done, these officers are your younger brothers. With all the power in your hands, you can discipline and mete out punishment if the charges against them are proven. But there is no need to humiliate and diminish them as human beings and fellow officers. Their actions which began with the Oakwood mutiny do not stem from a desire for personal gain or power. They stem mainly from having seen the injustice and corruption in our society which have led to a strong desire for meaningful change.

If the idea of subjecting these officers to shame and ridicule is to discourage others from taking a similar path, let me suggest that such action could have the opposite effect; it could instead engender resentment, bitterness and hostility among others in the organization.

As to the firearms, explosives and a Batasan blueprint found in the possession of these officers, it would be wise for us to maintain a healthy skepticism in the face of extensive psywar activities aimed at conditioning the minds of our people. As the old refrain goes—planting rice is never fun, planting evidence is much more fun. I am not suggesting that those pieces of evidence were planted, but these days one can never be sure of anything. We must also be wary of the sudden changes of heart among captured officers, like the one of Army Lt. Lawrence San Juan. Somehow, I am reminded of Alberto Mora who recently won the Kennedy Foundation's "Profiles in Courage" award. Mora said "Cruelty disfigures our national character. It is incompatible with our Constitutional order, with our laws, and with our most prized values. Cruelty can be as effective as torture in destroying human dignity and there is no moral distinction between one and the other."

Respected journalists, members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association must be allowed regular visits and access to these detainees.

* * *

The appointment of Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. as AFP chief of staff was recently announced by Malacañang. Five months ago, in one of my columns, I predicted that Esperon would be the next AFP chief. I would have wanted to see Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes named to the post, considering his seniority and experience. Joe Reyes got his third star (Lt. Gen.) ahead of Esperon. He also became a service commander much earlier than Esperon. He belongs to PMA Class '73. Esperon comes from PMA Class '74. By all measures of seniority, Reyes is the No. 1 man in the Armed Forces. His educational qualifications and military background and performance in the service are of the highest order.

Earlier, Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor became AFP chief of staff as did Lt. Gen. Arnulfo Acedera during FVR's time. There is no reason why an Air Force man should not be AFP chief of staff. Having said all these, we are aware that appointment to the position of AFP chief is the prerogative of the Commander in Chief. But, as the INQUIRER editorial last Friday pointed out: "Esperon's promotion will neither foster calm or even reconciliation within the ranks of a military agitated by allegations of senior officers participating in electoral fraud. It will not smoothen relations with Congress or assuage the fears, rightly or wrongly, in certain quarters that the administration is showing a marked interest in pursuing authoritarian solutions to its political problems. It will not enhance the prestige of the Armed Forces or inspire confidence in the senior officer corps."

A food stand on the plaza

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT MAY NOW BE CONSIDERED WATER UNDER the bridge, but a recent dispute between concerned citizens of Pila, Laguna (with the support of the Heritage Conservation Society) and Greenwich Pizza as well as its corporate parent, Jollibee Foods Corp., is a good example of citizen action borne of vigilance, as well as of corporate responsiveness to public concerns.

The dispute began with a letter sent by e-mail to Tony Tan Caktiong, president of Jollibee Foods, by John Silva, a consultant with the National Museum and former trustee of the Heritage Conservation Society. It was about the setting up of a temporary food stand of Greenwich Pizza on the town plaza of Pila. The plaza was declared a National Historical Landmark by the National Historical Institute in 2000 because, said Silva, "it is one of the few remaining examples of a Spanish colonial town plaza, surrounded by some very fine examples of Spanish and American period homes."

Because of its landmark status, the Pila town plaza is protected by law from "unauthorized modification, alteration, repair and destruction." As Silva noted: "The Greenwich food stand insults the townspeople who fought for and secured the Landmark Status. In addition, the food stand negatively affects the aesthetic charm of the plaza and will definitely affect tourist visits."

The next day (which says something about Jollibee's responsiveness—Tan Caktiong actually reads his e-mail!), Silva received a response from Erwin Elechicon, president and general manager of Greenwich. Elechicon explained that Jollibee Foods has been a "major patron of the community activities of Pila in the past," and on the occasion of Pila's Foundation Day last year, both Jollibee and Chow King sponsored the events and set up food stands in the plaza area.

This year, Greenwich, as principal sponsor, proposed to set up a food stand two weeks before the Foundation Day and secured the approval of the mayor for a P10,000-fee.

* * *

"FROM OUR perspective, we were simply repeating what we believed was our participation in a successful event last year, and advancing this by a couple of weeks with the approval of the appropriate authorities," Elechicon wrote. He assured Silva that the food stand was temporary and would be dismantled after the Foundation Day activities.

"Given the situation, however," Elechicon added, "we have asked our local representatives to meet the mayor of Pila immediately, and offer to either relocate our stand or take it down and remove it temporarily. We are definitely more than willing to remain the sponsor of Pila's Foundation Day. Our only request is that if the town decides to set up food stands and other stalls as planned during the period of Pila's actual Foundation Day celebrations (the week of July 24), that Greenwich Pizza will be a part of this, and will be allowed to set up its own stand as well. We hope you will agree that this is a fair and reasonable request."

The Greenwich head concluded his letter by stating his company's and Jollibee's support for "Filipino values" and pride in Filipino heritage.

* * *

MOST other activists might have let the issue rest, but not Silva. He wrote a reply letter to Elechicon that not only allowed him to get some licks in, but also clarified for Greenwich and Jollibee what should have been the full extent of their response, given their claims to exercising corporate social responsibility.

It was not enough for Greenwich to have secured the local government's approval for its participation in a community activity, Silva noted. "The Presidential decrees (on national historical landmarks) supersede any agreement with the local government because (they are) decrees which bind everybody. Ignorance of the law excuses no one. Your defense that your company went through the 'usual accepted practice' disturbs me and the townspeople of Pila."

Added Silva: "You are thinking on the small side if you say it's 'fair and reasonable' if the mayor allows other food stalls to go up, Greenwich should too. Where is your corporate social responsibility? The mayor was in complete violation of the Presidential decrees in making illegal deals with food stall vendors both last year and this year. The townspeople have had a running battle with the mayor on upholding the decrees. And yet, here's the biggest food conglomerate in the Philippines still trying to tell the Mayor 'Me-Too-Me-Too-food stall' instead of upholding the laws of the land, exercising corporate citizenship and not be party to an illegal act."

In that letter, Silva also informed Elechicon that members of the Pila Historical Society had decided to go to court to get a TRO to have the food stand removed from the plaza.

* * *

FORTUNATELY, the matter didn't have to go before a judge. Two days after the exchange of e-mails began, Silva got word that the food stand had been dismantled and by the next day there would be no trace left of the structure.

Elechicon, for his part, said Greenwich still wanted to take an active part in Pila's community activities, and if the town and the historical society could agree on an appropriate site (other than the plaza) for food booths, then they would want to be part of it. "Our Company does not condone, and most definitely will not be party to any questionable or illegal activity. Again, we simply want to be a positive, productive and proactive contributor," he said.

All's well that ends well? Yes, but only after concerned townsfolk who valued their town's history and beauty kicked up a fuss, found an advocate and champion who knew the right buttons to push, and were met by a prompt and proper response from a company that believed in living up to the values it espoused.

A shepherd in the family

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MY BROTHER PABLO DAVID, BETTER KNOWN as Father Ambo, became a bishop on the same day the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines put out a pastoral statement that puzzled many people. The statement touched on a range of issues, but it was the bishops' position on impeachment that was eagerly awaited. Many rightly thought the leaders of the Church sounded as confused on this matter as the laity they were supposed to guide.

Being one of the signatories to the second impeachment complaint, I got a lot of text messages asking me if it was true that the newly ordained bishop was part of the CBCP committee that drafted the statement. I said I wasn't aware that he was; but it would not bother me at all if he were. I was sure he did justice to his assignment. Pastoral letters are meant to reflect the general sentiment of the whole congregation, not just of those actually elected to write them.

I have read this most recent pastoral statement, and I can say I understand where it is coming from. I think that it mirrors all the imagined moral dilemmas and fears of the middle class. Of course, I wish the bishops did not have to comment on whether or not impeachment is the correct approach to solving the nation's crisis. Bishops are also human. I do not believe that by virtue of their ecclesiastical position they necessarily have a superior perspective on the political crisis of our society.

Though we may think of them as a special class of people, in fact, bishops belong to the same culture as their flock, and are not immune to its excesses. It is not easy to be a shepherd in a society whose moral markers are constantly shifting. That is why, more than the statement itself, it is the report over pay-offs to some bishops by agents of Malacañang that alarms me. It is such things, rather than the ambivalence of the their statements, that erode the credibility and moral standing of the bishops. They are human too, but being human need not be equated with weakness. I am happy to learn that many of the bishops actually spurned Malacañang's shameless attempt at bribery. Such rejection is the loudest statement they could possibly make to the Arroyo regime.

It is an interesting feeling having a bishop in one's family. A special aura seems suddenly to surround this person after his ordination. My brothers and sisters, all raised in the solemnity of Catholic rituals, could not decide if they should kiss their brother's ring or his cheek as they approached him after the Mass. Ambo, the 10th of 13 siblings, spared us from any awkwardness by offering not his hand but his tight fraternal embrace. It was his way of telling us: I am a bishop, yes, but I remain your brother.

By pure coincidence, last Sunday's gospel was taken from the Gospel of Mark (6, 1-6). It tells of Jesus returning to preach at the synagogue of Nazareth, his home town. His town mates who heard him were amazed; they did not know how to regard him. "'Where did this man get these things?' they asked. 'What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, 'Only in his home town, among his relatives and in his own house, is a prophet without honor.'" It was a subtle rebuke of their faithlessness in the face of a messiah who looked just like one of them.

Ambo wove his first homily to his fellow bishops around this theme. He began by saying that God sent his only begotten son to become man in order to show the rest of us what it is to be human. For, there is among us, he said, a widespread tendency to draw a sharp line between the spiritual and the material, between divinity and humanity. "Did not Christ become fully human precisely to show us that being human need not mean being fallen, flawed and sinful? In the larger scheme of things, even our mistakes have much to contribute to a creation in process, to the task of becoming human together."

Addressing his brothers in the sacred order of bishops, Ambo said: "People who tell us to attend to the spiritual and leave the material and the physical to the secular society do not know what the realm of the spiritual is all about. Perhaps it is also our fault, in more ways than one. Unwittingly, we may have reinforced a kind of attitude that polarizes the religious from the secular. 'Gaudium et Spes' reminds us that we are a Church in the modern world. We are learning to dialogue with other religions and cultures, but I wonder if we should not learn to dialogue with secular society as well. This can only be possible, however, if we first suspend our pre-judgments and our tendencies to label anyone who doesn't agree with us as anti-life, anti-God, or anti-family. It is counter-productive to simply take a sharp adversarial stance or a posture of militancy. We might end up alienating more people, or marginalizing ourselves."

"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" asked Nathanael when Philip told him that he had seen the messiah and that he was from Nazareth. Isn't this the same despair we promote, Ambo asked, when we cap every self-lacerating exercise with the collective sigh, "*Onli in da Pilipins!*"? We must begin by restoring our faith in ourselves as a nation, and rise above our cynicism. Thus the young shepherd spoke.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

How to go spelunking

SAMAR—SPELUNKING (OR CAVING) IS THE recreational sport of cave exploration. The challenges of the sport depend on the cave being visited, but they often include the negotiation of pitches, squeezes and water. Climbing or crawling is often necessary, and ropes are used extensively. It has recently come to be known as an extreme sport by some, requiring protective wear and equipment.

"What I Have Learned (While Spelunking in Samar)":

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

1. Do not wear a short mint-colored cotton sundress with a plunging neckline, for, while lovely on a mannequin in the middle of a mall, it is not quite proper garb for adventuring among rocks.

2. In the event that the cotton sundress is unavoidable, do not bring a parasol into the cave.

3. In the event that the cotton sundress is unavoidable, and you do—for some insane reason—bring a matching parasol into the cave, do choose to wear an underwear other than ruffled granny panties.

4. In the event that the cotton sundress, parasol and ruffled granny panties are unavoidable, ensure that there is no video camera in the vicinity.

5. In the event that the cotton sundress, parasol and ruffled granny panties are unavoidable, and a camera exists, make sure it is not rolling at the moment when you slip down an elevated cavern floor, with your skirt flying overhead and people watching from below.

6. In the event that the cotton sundress, parasol, ruffled granny panties and video camera are unavoidable, and that same camera is rolling when you fall on your ass, make sure that your tour guide does not think he is Steven Spielberg yelling "Take 2!" after every fall.

7. In the event that the cotton sundress, parasol and ruffled granny panties are unavoidable, and a video camera exists, and that same camera is rolling when you fall on your ass, and that the tour guide does think he is Steven Spielberg, do not stand up, smile and do everything all over again.

Getting to the Sohoton Cave means an hour-long ride on a bamboo boat along the Basey River. The boat is motorized, captained by an old *timon* sitting at the very tip of the boat, his sunburned face a network of wrinkles. We pass by mothers rowing children to school and skinny houses on stilts that tilt over the water, looking as if they were looking at their reflections.

The bones of dead men guard the entrance of the cave. Long ago, Filipino rebels waited at the top of a cliff to ambush unsuspecting Spaniards. They were buried at the mouth of Sohoton Cave. When the locals realized this, they began burying their dead side by side with the white men. The Spaniards have long since been exhumed, but there is no telling how many of our men are left sleeping at the cave's mouth.

Keeping your footing on damp ground—which vaguely resembles chocolate ice cream left forgotten on a kitchen counter—is a challenge in itself. There is a sentry at the opening, and I see him through a gap in the cavern wall. He stands half-hidden by the gloom, gun on his slouched shoulder, feet shod in white boots and cap pulled over his face. When the beam from my flashlight swings over him, he disappears and becomes just another lump bulging from a wall of rocks.

I walk through cavern after cavern. I'm told that water from the trees above the cave has seeped into the rock, forming calcite and limestone that accumulate for thousands of years until they become stalactites and stalagmites. I understand what the guide says—somewhat; but science and I have never been friends. I am perfectly happy believing the caves have always been here, and that the projections are princes frozen in perpetual sleep, waiting to be kissed awake by a maiden with a pure heart. Or something like that. Before I could start kissing any rocks—I can just imagine carting a half-dozen dazed Legolas-types to my parents' house and presenting them to my mother—my guide asks if I want to view yet another musical organ.

His flashlight streaks up the walls. I look up, and there it is, the great organ itself, thrusting out of the ceiling, quite excited to see us, to all intents and purposes anatomically correct. The hoots of masculine admiration are, I'm sure, a familiar sound to the cave walls.

The rock menagerie marches on from one end of the cave to the other. There is an eagle, two stories high, which will do any blue-blooded Atenean proud. Dumbo lifts his trunk beside a sitting dog, a howling lion and a napping cat. It's like a walking tour of a strange new city. "There, the Rice Terraces," Francisco says. He has a name for every chunk of rock we pass by. The Three Kings! The Angels! Mount Pinatubo! Our guide, Francisco Corales—he claims to be related to Pilita Corrales—explains the naming of the rocks. He says that whenever a new group wanders through the cave, it gives new names to the formations. What is the Statue of Liberty to one is the face of Snoopy the Dog to another.

There's one cavern that my all-male crew prefers—one whose name, there is no doubt, fits. "We call this the nursery," my intrepid guide says, then points his flashlight up to the low ceiling.

And there, in all their womanly glory, dark nipples pointing downward as if pulled by gravity, are dozens of breasts in every variety—perky 16-year-old breasts; full breasts that drip ice water; and long, elongated breasts that seem too tired to take notice. They run the gamut of cup A to triple F, crowded in a six-foot-square space.

I remember when I was 15 and listening to an older woman giving me advice. We were standing, toe-to-toe, myself exerting Herculean effort to keep my eyes on her face. She was wearing a bright, fire-engine red blouse with a ruffled, plunging neckline—no, not plunging, plummeting—that displayed to all and sundry an incredibly healthy bosom. I remember being momentarily afraid—probably the same way astronauts feel when they bump against the rim of a black hole. Who knows what might fall in?

Chalk it up to insecurity.

Orson Welles claims that man's departure from the caves can be attributed to the descent of Woman. "If there hadn't been women, we'd still be squatting in a cave eating raw meat, because we made civilization in order to impress our girlfriends."

I beg to differ. Personally, I believe it was Woman who went out of the cave with a club and dagger to carve out civilization—anything to get away from the boyfriend comparing her breasts to the interior decoration.

Wandering around caves has a distinct side effect. I like to think of myself as a reasonably self-assured individual—sometimes rational, more often reckless, usually my own No. 1 fan. But confronted with a millennia of history, soaring caverns and hurtling pillars, I suddenly feel very insignificant.

Especially around the chest area.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Challenge to traditional medicine

TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES ARE GAINING POPULARITY WORLDwide because Western medicine cannot meet current medical needs. Also called "complementary" or "alternative" medicine in industrialized countries, traditional medicine includes acupuncture, herbal preparations, aromatherapy, Ayurveda, chiropractic and homeopathic medicine.

The practitioners of traditional medicine in the Philippines are the *albularyos* and *manghihilots*, who provide an important function in areas where public and private health services are either non-existent or beyond the reach of the people.

Albularyos use indigenous herbs like sambong for kidney and gall stones, and lagundi for colds, coughs and asthma. The Department of Health itself is promoting around 10 medicinal herbs for public use.

The global market for herbal medicines is estimated at more $60 billion annually and is growing steadily.

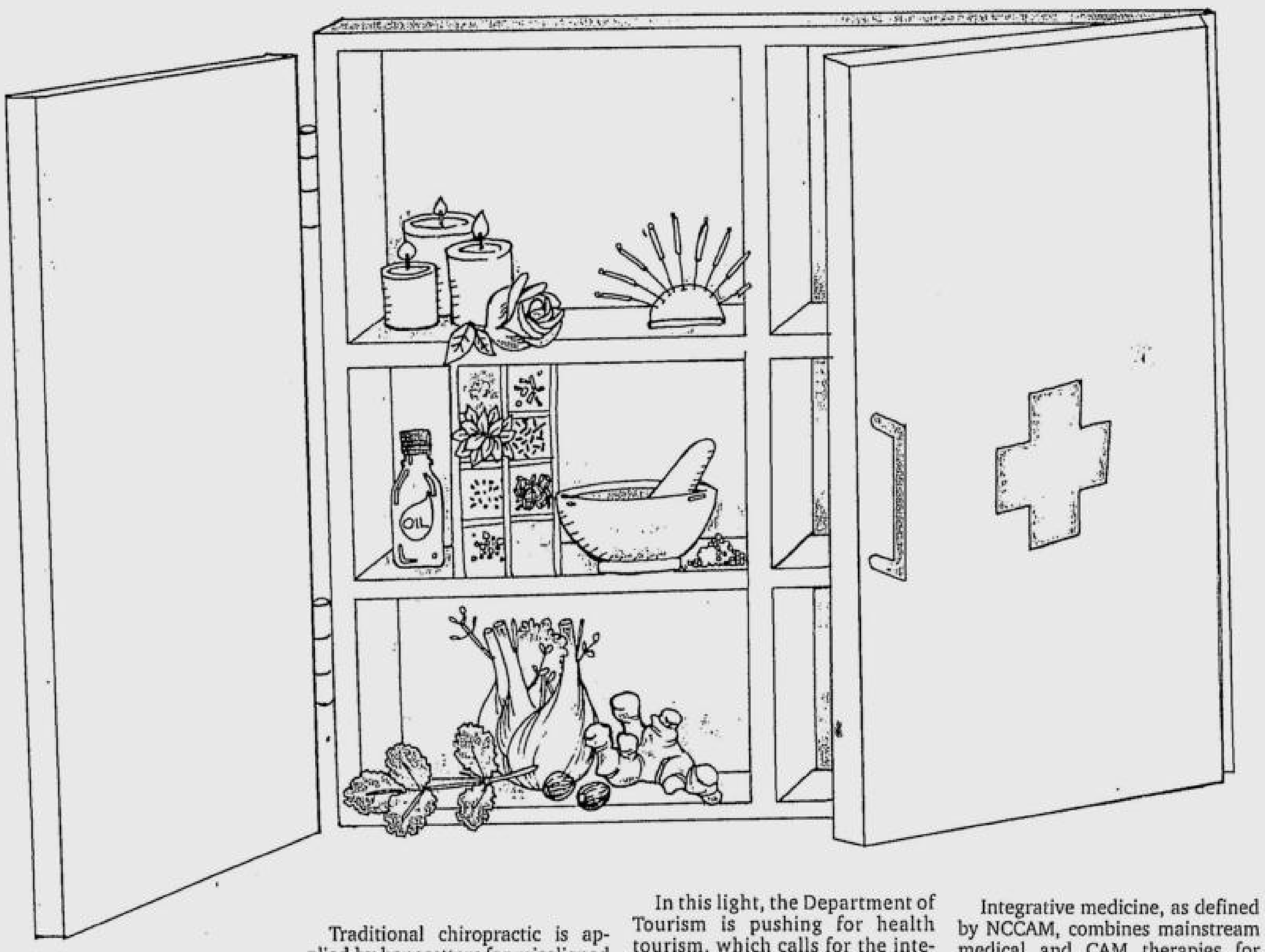
With the growing popularity of traditional medicines come increasing efforts to regulate them.

The number of countries regulating the sale of traditional remedies rose from 14 in 1988 to 53 in 2003, according to the World Health Organization. Some 40 more countries are seeking to regulate the sale of traditional medicines.

In the Philippines, the country's medical association has expressed concern over the proliferation of food supplements, herbal preparations and alternative health care practices. The association is calling for an end to the advertisement of supplements and preparations whose therapeutic effects have not been established. Other groups do not share the association's position.

Doctors threatened by alternative medicine

By Josef de Ubaldo, Dsc.



TRADITIONAL MEDICINE refers to health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant, animal, and mineral-based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercises, applied singularly or in combination to treat, diagnose and prevent illnesses, or maintain well-being.

Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America use traditional medicine (TM) to help meet some of their primary health care needs. In Africa, up to 80 percent of the population uses TM for primary healthcare. In industrialized countries, adaptations of TM are termed "complementary" or "alternative" medicine (CAM).

TM has maintained its popularity in the developing world and its use is rapidly spreading in industrialized countries.

- In China, traditional herbal preparations account for 30 to 50 percent of the total medical consumption.
- In Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Zambia, the first line of treatment for 60 percent of children with high fever resulting from malaria is the use of herbal medicines at home.
- The World Health Organization estimates that in several African countries traditional birth attendants assist in the majority of births.
- In Europe, North America and other industrialized regions, over 50 percent of the population has used complementary or alternative medicine at least once.
- In San Francisco, London and South Africa, 75 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS use TM/CAM.
- Seventy percent of the population in Canada has used complementary medicine at least once.
- In Germany, 90 percent of the population has used a natural remedy at some point in their life. Between 1995 and 2000, the number of doctors who underwent special training in natural remedy medicine almost doubled to 10,800.
- In the United States, 158 million of the adult population use complementary medicines and according to the US Commission for Alternative and Complementary Medicines, $17 billion was spent on traditional remedies in 2000.
- In the United Kingdom, annual expenditure on alternative medicine is placed at $230 million.
- The global market for herbal medicines currently stands at more than $60 billion annually and is growing steadily.

The Philippines, globally known as land of the healers, abounds in traditional medicines handed down through oral tradition and preserved in old wives' tales.

Foremost are unclassified 13,000 medicinal plants and herbs not to mention the world-famous *taxol* for cancer cure found in the bark of trees in Mt. Pulog in the northern part of the Philippines.

Age-old pine trees in Baguio City and acacia or narra trees in Central Mindanao have been found to contain antioxidants. Antioxidants can combat free radicals and toxins that devastate the human body. The toxins come from polluted air and lead from gas emissions as well as sulfur and metals such as mercury and arsenic that can be found in bodies of water.

Even before the coming of the Spaniards in 1521, people living in what is now called the Philippines were practicing traditional modalities of healing such as naturopathy or nature cure, bonesetting (*hilot*) or chiropractic methods, and herbology.

Albularyo

The Filipino *albularyo*, noted to be a practitioner of holistic health and wellness, employs traditional folk medicine, body manipulation and aromatherapy.

For example, naturopath uses coconut vinegar to wipe the body of a patient afflicted with high fever. Another natural method is soaking both feet of the patient afflicted with colds on a basin of lukewarm water with sea salt.

Traditional chiropractic is applied by bonesetters for misaligned bones in the arms, feet and spinal cord of a patient.

Herbology uses indigenous herbs. The medicinal herb *sambong* is boiled and drank to dissolve kidney and gall stones; *lagundi* for colds, coughs and asthma; and *charantia momordica* (*ampalaya*) or bitter gourd is well known for its antidiabetic medicinal property. Garlic is not only used as spice for cooking but also can lower high cholesterol level.

The Department of Health is promoting around 10 medicinal herbs for public use.

Chinese medicine

The centuries-old traditional Chinese medicine must have exerted a huge influence on TM practitioners. They follow the oriental points in acupressure and place utmost importance in achieving equilibrium between the yin and yang. The chi energy is crucial in every human in promoting holistic health.

In remote areas of the country where healthcare delivery system is generally non-existent, the *manghihilot* and *herbolaryos* (folk medicine men) are well prized. They use herbs, concoct medicinal plants and herbs together with prayers. Even urban folks seek their services.

In this light, the Department of Tourism is pushing for health tourism, which calls for the integration of traditional healing techniques, and promotion of health farms, resorts and wellness clinics.

The Philippines has a competitive edge in health destinations because of the presence of many mystical healing mountains (one of them is Mt. Banahaw) and natural places such as hot springs and other healing resorts that have curative and rejuvenating effects on people.

Spas that include mineral salt or marine herb scrubs abound in the metropolis of Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, and Davao and are continuing to increase in number.

Detoxification is the initial step toward wellness. This is done through using ion cleansing machine, reflexology treatment, diet and fasting, colonics, hydrotherapy, coffee enema and myotherapy.

Republic Act No. 8423, the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act, was passed by Congress and signed into law in 1998 by then President Fidel V. Ramos.

Attempts at regulation

The Philippine Medical Association is threatened (except for members who practice complementary and alternative medicine) by the proliferation of herbal medicines.

There is a move to regulate the proliferation of imported herbal preparations in the country. The Bureau of Food and Drugs, DOH and Bureau of Customs have formed a task force to protect the health and welfare of Filipinos.

Existing herbal medicines in the Philippines must undergo registration and licensing. However, a different kind of system and standards for testing safety and efficacy must be adopted because the active ingredient in herbal medicines is never identified but the synergistic effects of all the active ingredients are established.

Complementary

Thus, the pharmaceutical standards for testing and clinical trials cannot be applied. A German model of pharmacopoeia can then be applied.

Complementary and alternative medicine, as defined by the US National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), is a group of diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products that are not currently considered part of conventional medicine.

Integrative medicine, as defined by NCCAM, combines mainstream medical and CAM therapies for which there is some high-quality scientific evidence of safety and effectiveness. They are classified as follows:

1. Alternative medical systems

Alternative medical systems are built upon complete systems of theory and practice. Often, these systems have evolved apart from and earlier than the conventional medical approach used in the United States.

2. Mind-body interventions

Mind-body medicine uses a variety of techniques designed to enhance the mind's capacity to affect bodily functions.

3. Biologically based therapies

Biologically based therapies in CAM use substances found in nature, such as herbs, foods, and vitamins.

4. Manipulative and body-based methods

Manipulative and body-based methods in CAM are based on manipulation and/or movement of one or more parts of the body.

5. Energy therapies

- Biofield therapies are intended to affect energy fields that purportedly surround and penetrate the human body. The existence of such fields has not yet been scientifically proven. Some forms of energy therapy manipulate biofields by applying pressure and/or manipulating the body by placing the hands in, or through, these fields.
- Bioelectromagnetic-based therapies involve the unconventional use of electromagnetic fields, such as pulse fields, magnetic fields, or alternating current or direct-current fields.

Homeopathy

The Office of Alternative Medicine in Washington has adopted homeopathy and acupuncture as forms of complementary medicine. The Harvard School of Medicine has been using acupuncture as a form of analgesia.

The NCCAM, the US federal government's lead agency for scientific research on CAM, is dedicated to exploring complementary and alternative healing practices in the context of rigorous science, training CAM researchers, and disseminating authoritative information to the public and professionals. These include:

- Acupuncture
- Dietary supplements
- Aromatherapy
- Electromagnetic fields
- Ayurveda
- Homeopathic medicine
- Chiropractic

Safety issues

Scientific evidence from random clinical trials is strong for many uses of acupuncture, some herbal medicines and for some of the manual therapies. Further research is needed to ascertain the efficacy and safety of several other practices and medicinal plants.

Unregulated or inappropriate use of traditional medicines and practices can have negative or dangerous effects.

For instance, the herb "*ma huang*" (*ephedra*) is traditionally used in China to treat respiratory congestion. In the United States, the herb was marketed as a dietary aid, whose over dosage led to at least a dozen deaths, hearth attacks and strokes.

In Belgium, at least 70 people required renal transplant or dialysis for interstitial fibrosis of the kidney after taking an herbal preparation made from the wrong species of plant as slimming treatment.

Biodiversity

In addition to patient safety uses, there is the risk that a growing herbal market and its great commercial benefit might pose a threat to biodiversity through the over harvesting of raw materials for herbal medicine and other natural health care products. These practices, if not controlled, may lead to the extinction of endangered species and the destruction of natural habitats and resources.

Another related issue is the protection provided under international standards for patent law and most national conventional patent laws. It is inadequate to protect traditional knowledge and biodiversity.

Tired and tested methods

- Twenty-five percent of modern medicines are made from plants first used traditionally.
- Acupuncture has been proven effective in relieving postoperative pain, nausea during pregnancy, nausea and vomiting resulting from chemotherapy, and dental pain with extremely low side effects. It can also alleviate anxiety, panic disorders and insomnia.
- Yoga can reduce asthma attacks while *tai chi* techniques can help the elderly reduce their fear of heights.
- TM can also have an impact on infectious diseases. For example, the Chinese herbal remedy *artemisia annua*, used in China for almost 2,000 years has been found to be effective against resistant malaria and could create a breakthrough in preventing almost one million deaths annually, most of them children, from severe malaria.
- In South Africa, the Medical Research Council is conducting studies on the efficacy of the plant *sutherlandia microphylla* in treating AIDS patients. Traditionally used as a tonic, this plant may increase energy, appetite and body mass in people living with HIV.

WHO promotes TM

The World Health Organization launched its first comprehensive traditional medicine strategy in 2002 to assist countries in:

- Developing national policies on the evaluation and regulation of TM/CAM practices;
- Creating a stronger evidence base on the safety, efficacy and quality of the TAM/CAM products and practices;
- Ensuring the availability and affordability of TM/CAM including essential herbal medicines;
- Promoting therapeutically sound use of TM/CAM by providers and consumers;
- Documenting traditional medicines and remedies.

(Ubaldo is the president of the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations.)

'Stop ads of nonscientifically proven products'

By Modesto O. Llamas, MD

I AM GRAVELY CONCERNED with the proliferation of food supplements, herbal preparations and alternative healthcare modalities being marketed and promoted as cures for all or specific types of illnesses despite the incredible scientific findings supporting such claims.

The public should know that only *lagundi*, *sambong*, *tsaang gubat* and *yerba buena* have been approved by the Department of Health to be of therapeutic value after supporting scientific studies have been conducted. However, these herbal preparations should be taken only upon proper consultation with a physician as to the indication, preparation, dosage and duration of intake.

The DOH has created the Institute of Natural Medicine (INM) to conduct reviews, studies and researches, with the assistance of other reputable organizations on the following preparations or alternative healthcare modalities:

Detoxification, herbal medicine, IV reduced gluathlone therapy for Parkinson's disease, massage, aromatherapy; pranic healing; and electro medicine (zappars).

Nutritional medicine, hyperbaric medicine, chiropractic medicine, myotherapy. myofascial therapy, acupressure, light and color therapy and chelation.

These should not be advocated, used or applied unless scientifically validated by the INM.

The practice of iridiology and homeopathy has no scientific basis and should not be advocated. When used for the treatment of diseases, these can possibly turn into negligence, delay the application of the approved treatment and lead to progression of the disease.

Food supplements and herbal preparations should therefore not be directly or indirectly marketed or promoted as having therapeutic claims. Similar claims should not be made in advertisements or publicity campaigns, labels, and packaging materials.

To safeguard the health of the people, I urge all media companies to stop the advertising or promotion of nonscientifically proven products being marketed as having therapeutic effects.

(Llamas is the immediate past president of the Philippine Medical Association.)

INQUIRER *Mindanao*

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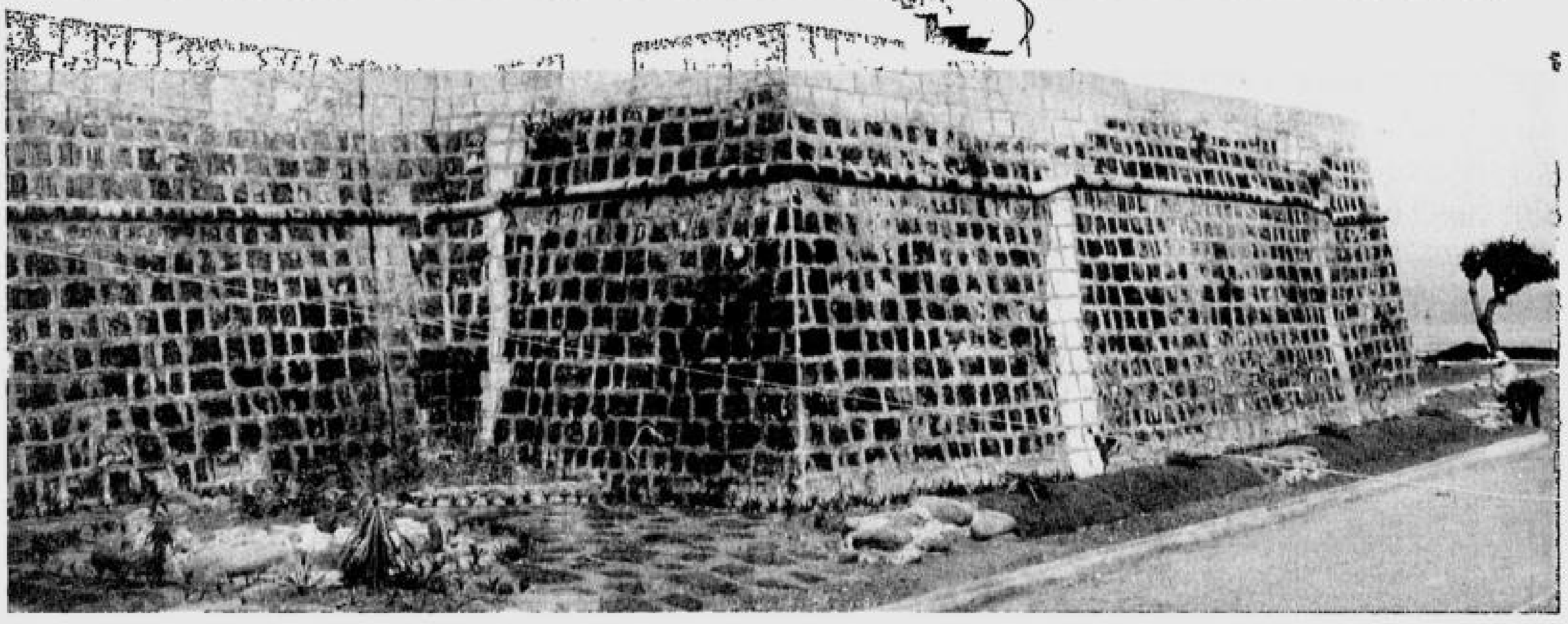
Ozamiz resurrects historic fortress

By Romy Macalisang
Contributor



BUILT next to the Baluarte de San Ignacio is a watchtower that, when lighted, guides mariners and fishermen entering the Panguil Bay at night. It has a 36-step stairway.

PHOTOS BY ROMY MACALISANG

TO MAKE THE CELEBRATION OF the 250th year of Catholicism in Ozamiz City in Misamis Occidental more memorable, local officials have completed, in time for the event, the restoration of the historic Fuerte de la Concepcion del Triunfo and the beautification of the Birhen sa Cotta Shrine.

"Our legacy to Ozamiznons and a dream come true for the devotees and pilgrims in northwestern Mindanao and elsewhere," Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog called the projects. "What the past administrations failed to do, we succeeded in doing it now for the glory of the Birhen."

Yesterday, as part of the monthlong celebration that will culminate on July 31, the fortress' marker was unveiled as the city also observes its 58th charter anniversary.

Declared a national historical landmark in 2002 by the National Historical Institute, the fortress—plainly called the "Misamis Cotta"—was restored along with the shrine in line with the city government's program of preserving the place as a cultural heritage site, pilgrimage destination and tourist spot.

It is sunken because of trenches dug by both Japanese soldiers and Filipino guerrillas during its siege in 1945 and an earthquake that struck the Zamboanga Peninsula in 1955.

The city has so far spent P11.7 million in restoring the fortress and in expanding and beautifying the Nuestra Señora del Triunfo de la Cruz, or simply the Birhen sa Cotta Shrine to devotees and pilgrims.

Declared a national historical landmark in 2002, the fortress—called the 'Misamis Cotta'—was restored along with the shrine in line with the city's program of preserving the place as a cultural heritage site, pilgrimage destination and tourist spot

DOT pledge

Of the amount, P1.7 million came from the Department of Tourism, which was part of the P5 million committed by then Secretary Richard Gordon to the projects and released last year by Roberto Pagdanganan when he took over the DOT last year. Parojinog said he would follow up with incumbent Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano the remaining P3.3 million to be used in constructing a food court next to the fortress and the shrine and in concreting and landscaping the projects.

The houses of some 200 squatter families around the fortress and the shrine were demolished after they refused to heed Parojinog's deadline to vacate the area on April 30.

The Misamis Cotta had been used as headquarters of a unit of the defunct Philippine Constabulary since the American colonial regime and after it was liberated from the Japanese in 1945. The 911 Provincial Mobile Group, the last unit of the Philippine National Police that occupied it, was transferred to an idle public market inside the jeepney and bus terminal complex at the start of the restoration work last year.

Cleared of all structures surrounding it and standing imposingly some 50 meters from the port, the Misamis Cotta meets passengers disembarking from barges and interisland ships. It houses a newly constructed museum and an elegant rest room. Its arsenal has been rehabilitated.

"Those who have gone to our city in the past might say the [250th anniversary] celebration is impossible with the presence of the shanties around the area. Today, we are proud to say that the Ozamiznons did it, again to the glory of the Birhen sa Cotta," Parojinog said in a press release.

Stolid and stunned

The Misamis Cotta was among the fortresses built by the Spaniards in Mindanao in the 18th century. Other structures are found in the banks of the river across the Panguil Bay in Liangan, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte; on a hill overlooking the sea in Dapitan City; the San Francisco Xavier in Iligan City; Fort San Jose in Cagayan de Oro City; and Fort Pilar in Zamboanga City.

In 1756, the Misamis Cotta was built by the natives on orders of Jesuit priests Francisco Jose Ducos and Nepomuceno Paver, primarily to provide shelter for Spanish battle ships anchored in the bay, historical accounts showed.

It was also used as a base to launch attacks against Muslim raiders and pirates who plundered the town and snatched natives to be sold as slaves to rich and royal Muslim families in Cotabato, Zamboanga, Sulu and even in Java, Borneo, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The fortress survived the test of time although it, as the line of Archbishop of York William Markham goes, "bowed to the weight of centuries."

"Stolid and stunned," local journalist Ramon Daomilas wrote in his book, "Rizal at Dapitan and Some Historical Bits of Misamis Occidental," noting cannon fires from the Japanese, rifle fires from the guerrillas, machine guns and bombs from US bomber planes in World War II, the 1955 earthquake and—to add the sentiments of devotees and pilgrims—indifference until 2005, when restoration work began.

The corner of the western bastion of the 5.5-meter fort has sunk by about two meters. Its walls have cracked by 50 centimeters.

THE COTTA Shrine after the restoration.

Weak foundation

Daomilas, who has a doctorate in philosophy, claimed that aside from the Intensity-7 earthquake that hit Ozamiz in April 1955, the trenches dug by the Japanese soldiers where they took cover during US aerial bombardments and the diggings made by the Filipino guerrillas during World War II might have weakened the facility's foundation.

The Misamis Cotta has four bastions:

- Baluarte de San Ignacio in the southeast facing the Panguil Bay and named after Jesuit Order founder St. Ignatius
- Baluarte de San Jose in the northeast, also facing the sea, named after the foster father of Jesus
- Baluarte de San Fernando in the northwest facing the town and named after King Ferdinand of Castille
- Baluarte de Santiago in the southwest, also facing the town, named after the apostle Saint James

The interior yard measures 60.45 x 56.9 meters. The upper half wall is 60-cm thick, making it impenetrable to bullets fired from 18th-century weapons. The lower half wall is 2.4 meters thick, protecting occupants even from heavy artillery fire.

A 4-m wide and 17-m long access ramp from the base to the Baluarte de San Ignacio made movement of cannons and soldiers to the top easier and faster. From one bastion to another are passageways 60 cm wide, each built with cannon and rifle emplacements.

Watchtower

Built next to the Baluarte de San Ignacio is a watchtower that guides mariners and fishermen entering the bay at night when illuminated. It has a 36-step stairway.

Rev. Fr. Teofilo Pitchay of the Philippine Independent Church wrote in the local weekly Panguil Bay Monitor that the Spanish authorities and clergymen, led by a Father Ducos, reigned through force and had the cotta built by the natives through forced labor and cruelty.

Those who could not contribute building materials like *batong marongol* (coral stones) were made to lie on the ground and given 25 lashes, Pitchay said. Those charged with more serious offenses were tied to tree trunks with ants or had their feet submerged in boiling water inside the "Balay nga Tisa" (Stone House) of the Rodriguezes that still stands on Ledesma Street.

"Bodega for rent," reads a notice hung on the wall of the house today. It is there where replicas of Dr. Jose Rizal's clothes were displayed for days during one of the national hero's death anniversary a few years back.

When the Japanese forces entered Ozamiz after bombing the place on Dec. 27, 1942 and killing any person on sight with bullets and bayonets, they converted the fortress into a garrison and occupied the houses of prominent families, including that of the Daomilas, according to WWII accounts.

The entire town fell on June 26, 1943, after the guerrilla movement suffered heavy casualties, including the capture and killing of three leaders—Capt. Joaquin Diamal, Lt. Osias Macamay and 2nd Lt. Hambar Bondoc. Atrocities committed by the occupation forces hastened the growth of the resistance movement that was organized by Maj. Luis Morgan of the US Armed Forces in the Far East (Usaffe) on Sept. 16, 1942.

The province, then known as Segundo Distrito de Misamis, included the present-day Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Camiguin, Bukidnon and parts of Cotabato and Maguindanao.

The district was named Misamis after its capital town (now Ozamiz City) located at the mouth of the Panguil Bay.

Liberation days

The liberation of Misamis started after Maj. Marcelo Bonilla replaced Major Naramjo as commander of the Usaffe's 106th Regiment, who was seriously wounded in an encounter with the Japanese on Aug. 24, 1944, and hospitalized in Morotai, New Guinea.

Among the officers and soldiers who figured in the sweep were Captains Segismundo Huliganga and Sotero Roque, First Lieutenants Zosimo Bajamunde and Benjamin Cajita, and 2nd Lt. Augusto Corro. Their unit was reinforced by the 105th Regiment under Col. Hipolito Garma.

Other officers who joined the offensives were Captains Aracid Hamid, Eliseo Abellanosa and Francisco Dayrit (head of the reserved 1st Battalion of the 106th Regiment); First Lieutenants Vicente de Barras, Demetrio Sy, Eugenio Neri, Juan de Leon, Ernesto Cabatu and Zoilo Ruaya; 2nd Lt. Sofronio Avancena, 3rd Lt. Potenciano Saturre and Lieutenants Pedro Parojinog and Abuan.

The guerrillas surrounded the fortress for more than two weeks starting at dawn of Nov. 22, 1944. Lieutenant Parojinog, who was escorting a woman bearing a letter requesting the Japanese to surrender, was hit in the left thigh by a sniper before reaching the place. Sgt. Francisco Montecillo and Corporals Pedro Pangasian and Feliciano Bucog were killed by snipers while returning to their trenches after putting bamboo ladders on the walls of the fortress.

The ladders were crafted by volunteer guards of the Bolo Battalion, so named for cutting down coconut trees to block the Japanese and carving mountain trails for the guerrillas using their bolos.

Members of the Women Auxiliary Service (WAS), founded by local heroine Josefa Capistrano to procure food, clothing and other military supplies for the guerrillas and tend to the sick and wounded, also came to treat the wounded and cook food for the fighters.

Bukagan Hill

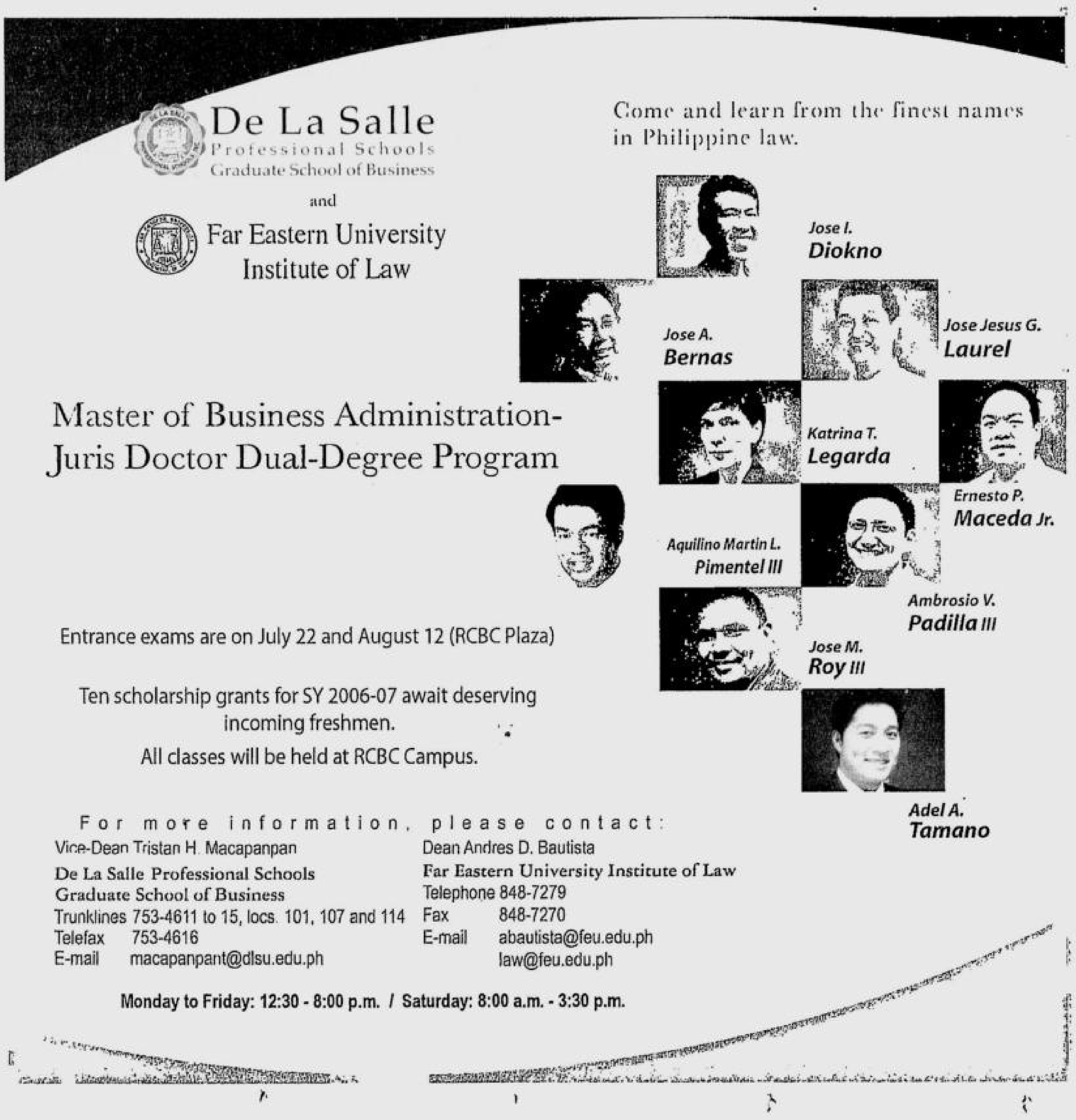
The Misamis Cotta was finally recaptured on Dec. 10, 1945, a day after two US planes strafed it with machine-gun fire and dropped incendiary bombs, killing many Japanese soldiers and their civilian captives.

Next in the restoration list of Mayor Parojinog is the historic Bukagan Hill overlooking Panguil Bay in the south, where Maj. Lucas Naranjo, described in local accounts as the bravest guerrilla leader in Misamis, and his men engaged the Japanese in a fierce battle during the Liberation.

It was in Bukagan that the Spaniards in Misamis, as jesters put it, would "text" their comrades from afar using the giant bell tower mounted on top of the hill. Its loud "signal" could reach Dapitan, Bukidnon, Cotabato and other parts of Mindanao.

Local historians Fr. Miguel Bernad and Dr. Ramon Daomilas recalled in their books that the Spaniards would beat the huge bell to alert *conquistadores* occupying other parts of the island of enemy intrusions. Those who received the message would relay it to comrades in neighboring places, like Cotabato and Zamboanga.

THE AUTHOR is editor in chief of the local weekly The Panguil Bay Monitor. He is currently involved in a project to come up with a written history of Ozamiz City.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4 more evacuees die in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY—FOUR MORE PERSONS, among them a 10-month-old baby girl, have died in evacuation centers in Maguindanao because of illnesses, bringing the death toll on civilians caught in the crossfire of fighting between militiamen and guerrillas to seven.

Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, said most of the latest victims suffered from severe cough and died in an evacuation center in Barangay Dapiawan in Datu Saudi town.

Residents of at least four towns in Maguindanao were moved to evacuation centers when fighting broke out between the militiamen and guerrillas on June 28.

Earlier, three evacuees, including a 10-month-old baby boy, died of severe anemia in Shariff Aguak town.

Sulaik said the latest victims did not die under the care of government health workers but from MILF medics, who were not as experienced in treating illnesses.

He said health authorities have suspected the victims died of "dextrose overloading" or infusion of too much fluids.

"The victims were brought to unlicensed rebel medics by their relatives," Sulaik said.

Sulaik said they were told that the relatives of the four victims have refused to seek help from government health workers for still unknown reasons.

"There are many cases of such incidents. The problem here is that some residents would seek the help of rebel medics, who they call doctors," he said.

Sulaik said they have initially succeeded in convincing rebel medics to refer patients to government health workers.

"But they are back in their operation again," he said.

Sulaik said they were seeking the help of authorities and rebel officials to put a stop to the practice of rebel medics because this would endanger the lives of the patients.

"They have no proper training," he said.

As this developed, Sulaik said the number of people being given medical assistance by the government has declined following the return of majority of evacuees to their homes.

About 30,000 people were displaced because of the skirmishes that have affected at least five towns, including the capital town of Shariff Aguak.

The clashes ensued when militiamen controlled by Gov. Andal Ampatuan stormed a rebel camp in Shariff Aguak following the June 23 roadside bomb attack that killed seven people and injured 10 others.

Authorities said Ampatuan was the target of the attack.

The governor's car had barely passed when the explosion took place near the public market. He was unscathed but four people in a car trailing Ampatuan's vehicle were killed.

It was not clear how many combatants died because of the clashes because of conflicting claims. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A MARINE in full combat gear disembark from a Navy ship in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. Some 400 troops from the Philippine Marine Battalion Landing Team 2 arrived to replace another unit. AFP

Vegetable prices soar as 'Florita' destroys roads

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE road cuts that have made sections of Halsema Highway impassable due to typhoon "Florita" have driven vegetable prices at the vegetable trading post here soaring.

Traders are now competing for scarce supply as vegetable harvests from the province's farms have not arrived as expected the past few days.

The 84-km Halsema Highway is the province's main road network that connects the vegetable producing towns of Tublay, Atok, Buguias, Mankayan and Kibungan.

"The high demand from truckers affected the prices of the limited supply of vegetables," said Dominador Dongla, chief market inspector of the trading post.

Cabbage, which is normally sold at P8 to P10 a kilogram, sells for P20 to P30 a kg, while potatoes sell from P12 to P14-P18 a kg, he said.

Even the price of the common chayote, Dongla said, went up to P20 to P23 a kg, up from P3 to P5 a kg.

Carrots took the highest increase from P13 to P60 a kg, he said.

Dongla said 750,000 to 1.5 million kg of assorted vegetables pass through the trading post daily before they are packed and shipped to Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon.

The prices were expected to increase further as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced that the Halsema Highway suffered a major blow from typhoon Florita.

Alexander Castañeda, Benguet DPWH engineer, said the highway suffered major damage along three areas. A 50-meter road cut was recorded in Sitio Pakpakitan in Barangay Amgaleyguey in Buguias while slides and mudflow hit the road along Barangays Calasipan and Caliking in Atok town.

"I hope we can restore a way for vehicles within the next three to four days," he said.

Raps filed vs squatting syndicate

A GOVERNMENT TEAM WAGING war on syndicates preying on private lot owners gained ground when it helped three people file criminal charges against members of a squatting syndicate operating in areas near Metro Manila.

Leonora Sebastian, Armando Barbosa and Belinda Santos, owners of private lots in Grand View Park Subdivision in San Mateo, Rizal, filed the cases before Chief State Prosecutor Juvenio Zunio of the Department of Justice.

In a statement, Amado Bagatsing, vice chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and head of the National Drive Against Professional Squatters and Squatting Syndicates, said the three lot owners charged spouses Bernard and Rachel Mabaggu with trespassing and illegal occupation of the vacant lots that the complainants owned.

The Mabaggus are claiming the lots as theirs and supposedly covered by a land title.

Bagatsing said he helped the three lot owners sue the couple with the help of Percival Chavez, chair of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, and Chief Supt. Arturo Estabillo.

The Mabaggus were accused of usurpation of real property rights, grave coercion, malicious mischief and violation of the building code.

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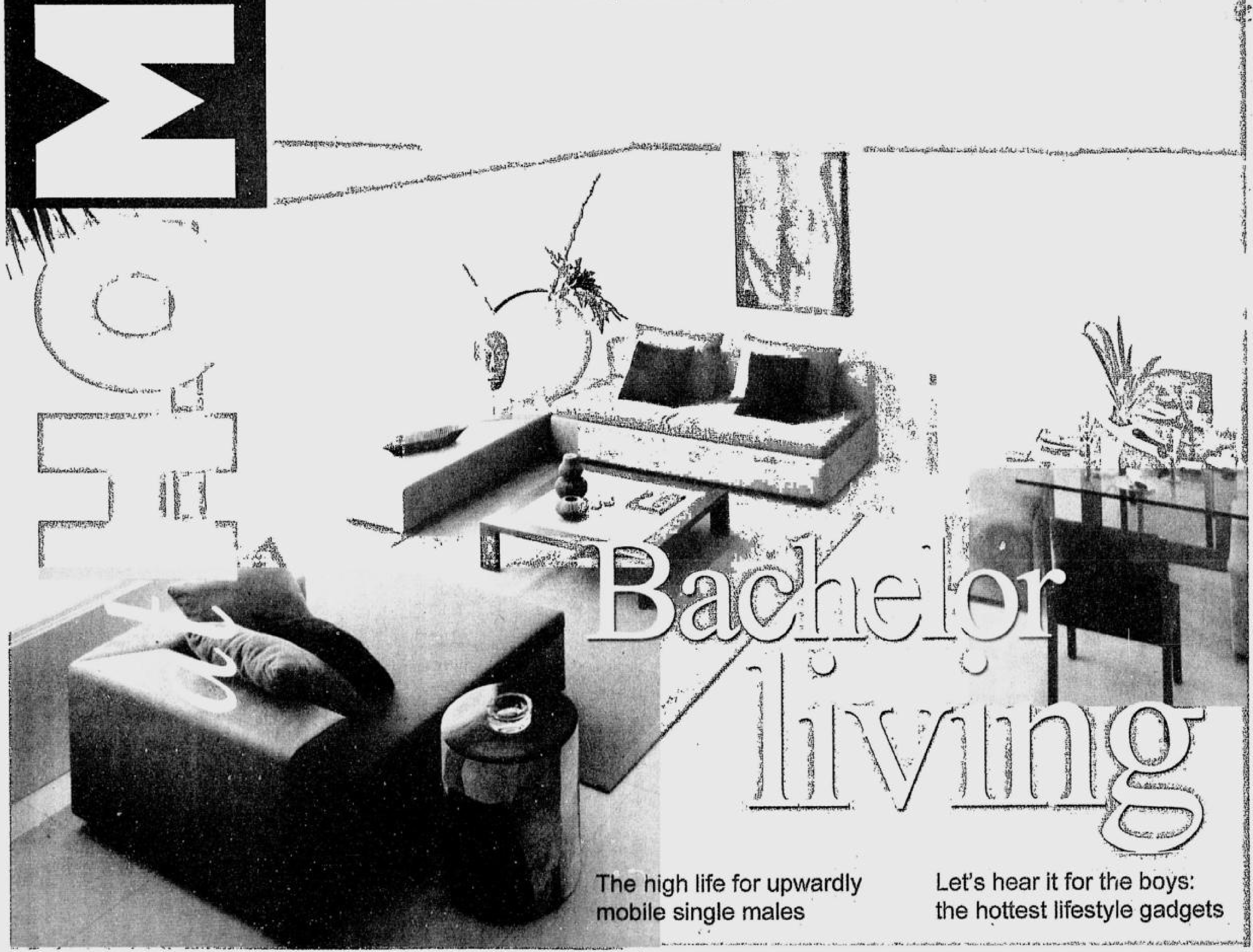

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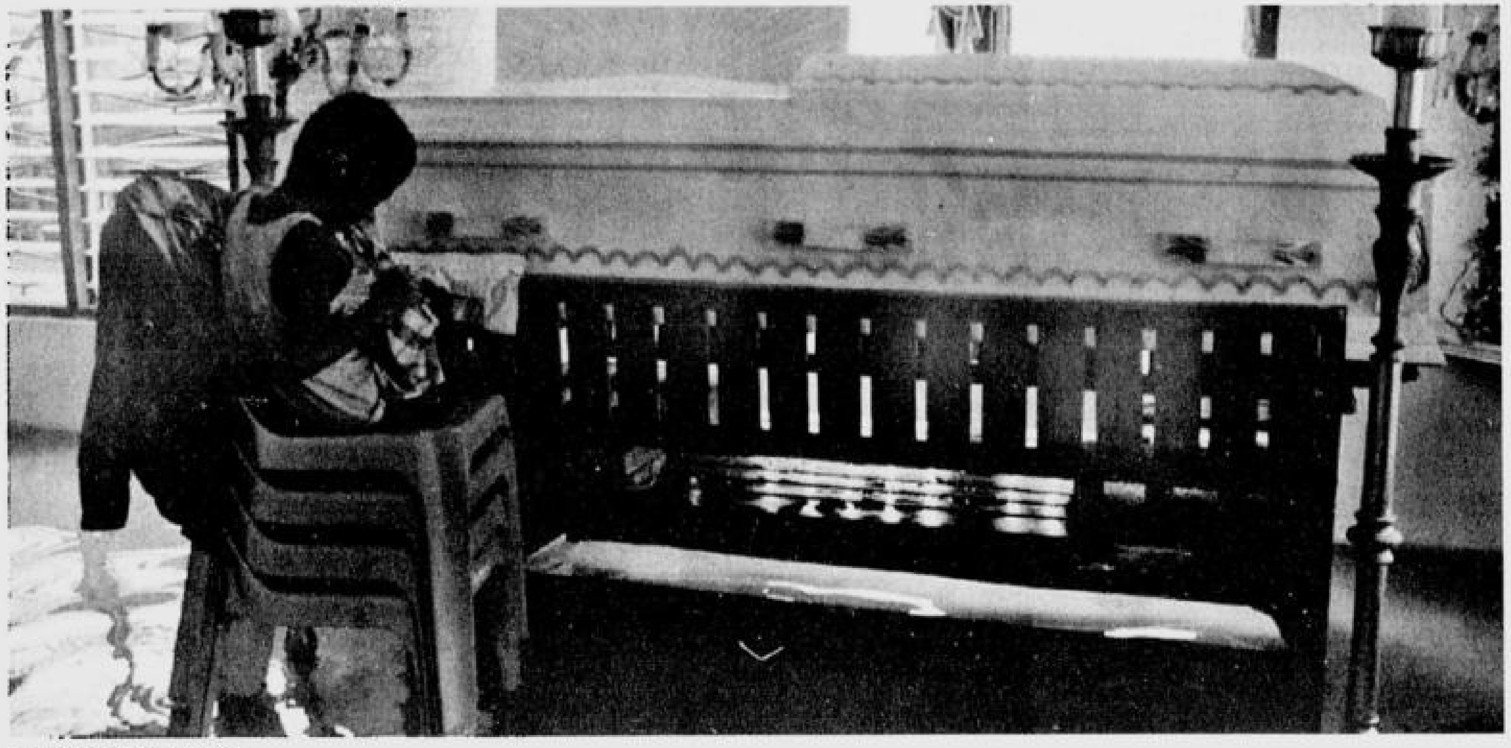
Court told cult leader Ecleo healthy for jail



FLOODED WAKE PAT ROQUE/AP

A boy sits in an elevated chair beside the coffin of a dead relative July 14 in the fishing town of Hagonoy, Bulacan as flood water submerged the area. Tropical storm "Florita" exited the country causing floods to a large area and leaving 14 people dead and 7 missing in the north.

By Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A CARDIOLOGIST has testified in court that controversial cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. is fit to go back to jail, citing his medical findings that the supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) has no significant coronary heart disease.

The private prosecutors presented last Thursday Dr. Generoso Matiga, an internist specializing in cardiology from the Perpetual Succour Hospital, to testify on his findings after being asked by Regional Trial Court Judge Geraldine Econg to conduct medical examinations on Ecleo.

Ecleo, who is facing a parricide case after being accused of killing his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo in January 2002, has been allowed to post bail last year after complaining of chest pains. His doctors said he was a "walking time bomb."

Lawyer Frits Quiñanola, one of the private prosecutors, has asked Judge Econg to order another medical examination of Ecleo to determine the cult leader's actual physical condition while also asking the court to revoke his bail bond.

Quiñanola earlier said that the private prosecutors believed that Ecleo is healthy and physically fit based on their observation of the accused during hearings.

Ecleo failed to attend the hearing yesterday after his counsels manifested that their client could not come because of the typhoon in Luzon. Ecleo, his lawyers claimed, is currently residing in Manila while undergoing his regular medical checkup at the Makati Medical Center.

Matiga, in his direct examination on Thursday, said Ecleo did not suffer from any significant coronary disease and that his vital signs appeared normal while being subjected to medical tests on June 22.

Ecleo, he said, went through two-dimensional (2D) echocardiogram and a 30-minute treadmill stress test.

Black bug infestation now eating up rice plants in 4 provinces

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—SPARING two provinces for the meantime, the black bug infestation has spread to four Bicol provinces—covering 20 towns and a total of 98 villages, according to a report of the Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) of the Department of Agriculture.

The report showed a seven-month spread of the infestation that started in the coastal towns of Sorsogon in November last year. At the end of May, nine of the 16 municipalities and a total of 74 villages had been confirmed black bug infested.

For five months, the black bug infestation was confined only to Sorsogon until the RCPC confirmed its spread in Albay in April with infestation verified in two villages of Legazpi City, two villages of Rapu-Rapu and one village in Manito.

In May, the black bug infestation further spread to Camarines Sur—in the four adjoining towns of Caramoan, San Jose, Sangay and Lagonoy in the Partido District of the province, facing the province of Catanduanes.

From Camarines Sur, the black bug infestation spread later that month to Catanduanes with outbreaks in five villages.

But RCPC said it still had to assess and verify whether or not the pest had already infested rice farms in the province.

Only the provinces of Camarines Norte and Masbate remained free from black bug infestation until now.

Balagtas Torres, DA regional executive director, said the black bug infestation does not pose significant harm to rice production of the region because, he said, it is only destructive to rice plants at the vegetative stage—one to two months old.

Torres said the black bug could do no harm to rice plants that are in the flowering and fruiting stages.

He said the DA does not recommend the use of chemicals against the black bug because, he said, predators of the pest will also die and chemicals could do more harm than good.

Torres said the RCPC had already developed the method for biological control of black bug using a preparation of bacteria called metarrhizium that infests, disables and kills the bug as the bacteria are passed on from bug to bug.

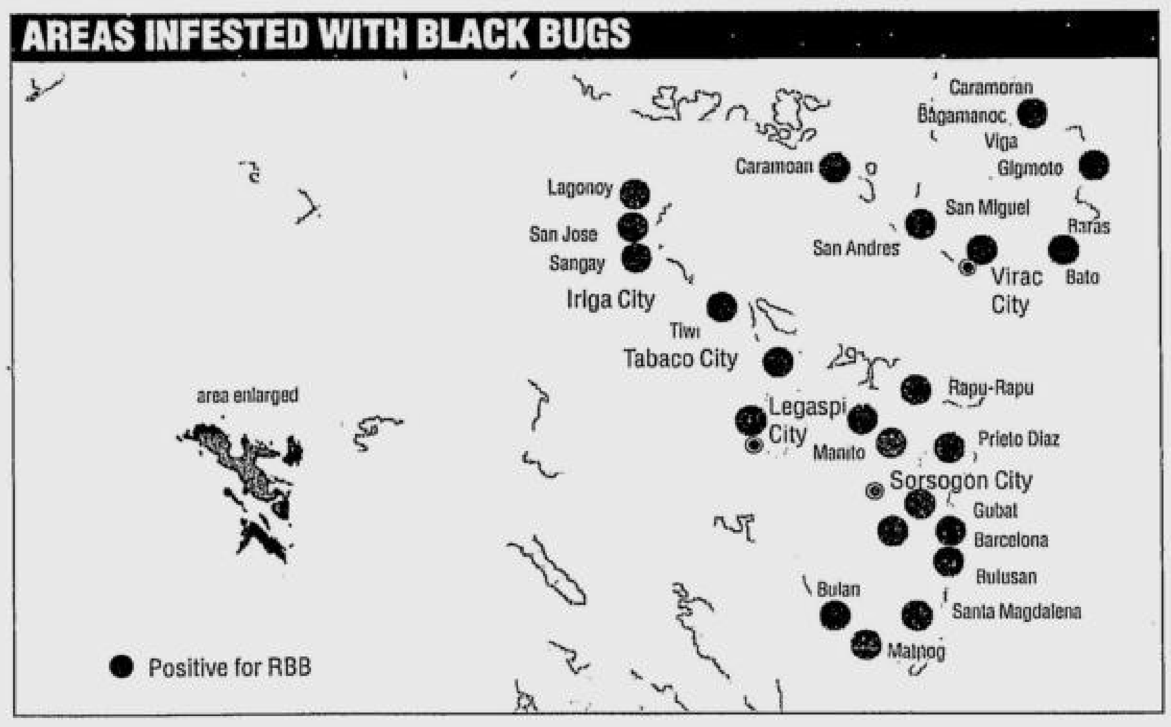
He said the DA regional office cannot handle the infestation alone and called on the local government units to help in financing the war on the bugs.

In a memorandum to Torres, Evangeline C. Dela Trinidad, RCPC chief, reported that her office has already distributed metarrhizium in seven towns affected by the black bug infestation in the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon.

Dela Trinidad said the RCPC had also conducted seminars on how to control the spread of black bugs in the towns of Bacon and Barcelona in Sorsogon.

She said three teams were also dispatched to monitor the rise or fall of the pest's population by light trapping during and before a full moon. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AREAS INFESTED WITH BLACK BUGS



A FARMER holds samples of black bugs.

JUAN ESCANDOR JR/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Technology park in Camarines Sur seen to be IT hub in Asia Pacific

A TECHNOLOGY PARK SITS ON A FIVE-hectare piece of property in the heart of Camarines Sur and the province's governor sees it as the next information and technology hub in the Asia Pacific.

The Camarines Sur Information Technology Park was built in 2005 and received a special economic zone status from the Philippine Special Economic Zone Authority (Peza) in March of the same year.

It was the first LGU-run and operated IT park in the country to receive such a status.

According to materials provided by the office of Gov. Lray Villafuerte, the IT park has an existing call center building which has a 400-seat capacity, an animation center, a training center for English proficiency and housing facilities for senior executives and staff.

It uses fiber optic technology and is equipped with two E-1 lines for quick Internet and network services.

Recently, two top executives of Dell Phils. went on a tour of the park upon the invitation of the provincial government.

They inspected the facilities and equipment at the IT park and also conducted a series of conferences with provincial officials led by Villafuerte and representatives of two Philippine telecommunications firms.

The two executives also observed the actual conduct of an English proficiency training program session and talked to the program's students and trainers.

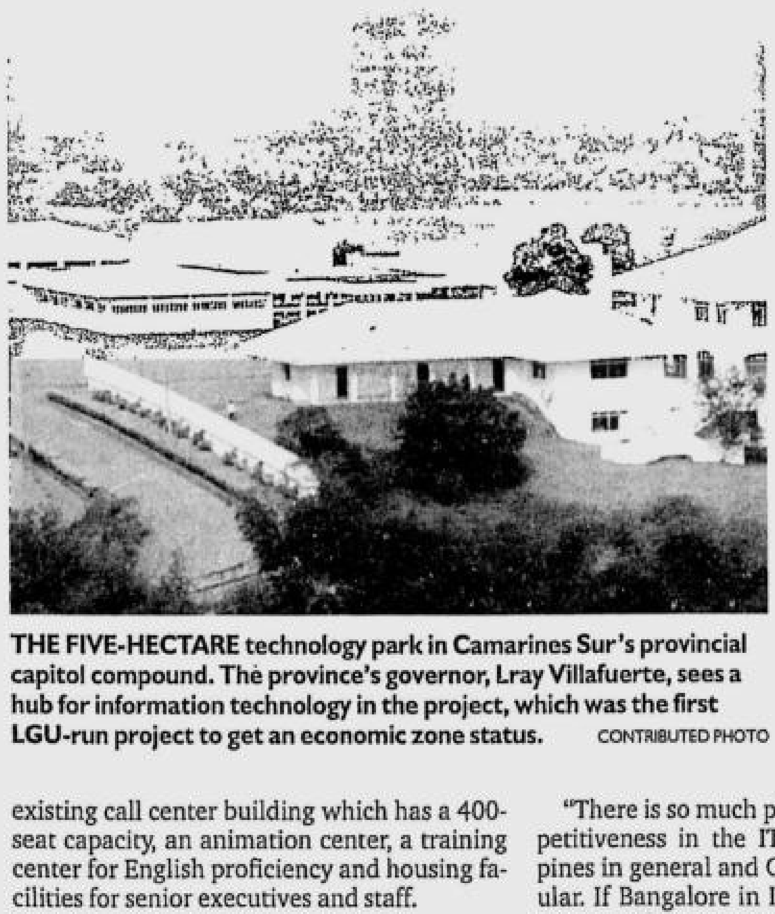
"The results of our talks with the Dell executives whom we took on the tour were certainly positive and very encouraging. We also got a positive reception during our promotional tour in the United States," Villafuerte said in a statement.

The successful entrepreneur-turned-public official also pointed out that aside from the superior facilities of the IT park, his province enjoys several advantages that would enable them to compete on a global scale. Among these are Camarines Sur is considered as the educational center of Bicol, with top-notch educational institutions such as the Ateneo de Naga, Nueva Caceres and Sta. Isabelle.

The province has competitive labor costs and is accessible by airlines with regular flights by Philippine Airlines and Air Philippines. It is also accessible by land with a network of well-maintained highways and roads from Metro Manila.

"There is so much potential for global competitiveness in the IT sector for the Philippines in general and Camarines Sur in particular. If Bangalore in India was able to transform itself into a major global IT hub, I don't see any reason why we cannot do the same for our province," said Villafuerte.

"We have established the necessary infrastructure and we have started ramping up the capability of our manpower pool. I believe it's just a matter of time before we become a major player."



THE FIVE-HECTARE technology park in Camarines Sur's provincial capitol compound. The province's governor, Lray Villafuerte, sees a hub for information technology in the project, which was the first LGU-run project to get an economic zone status. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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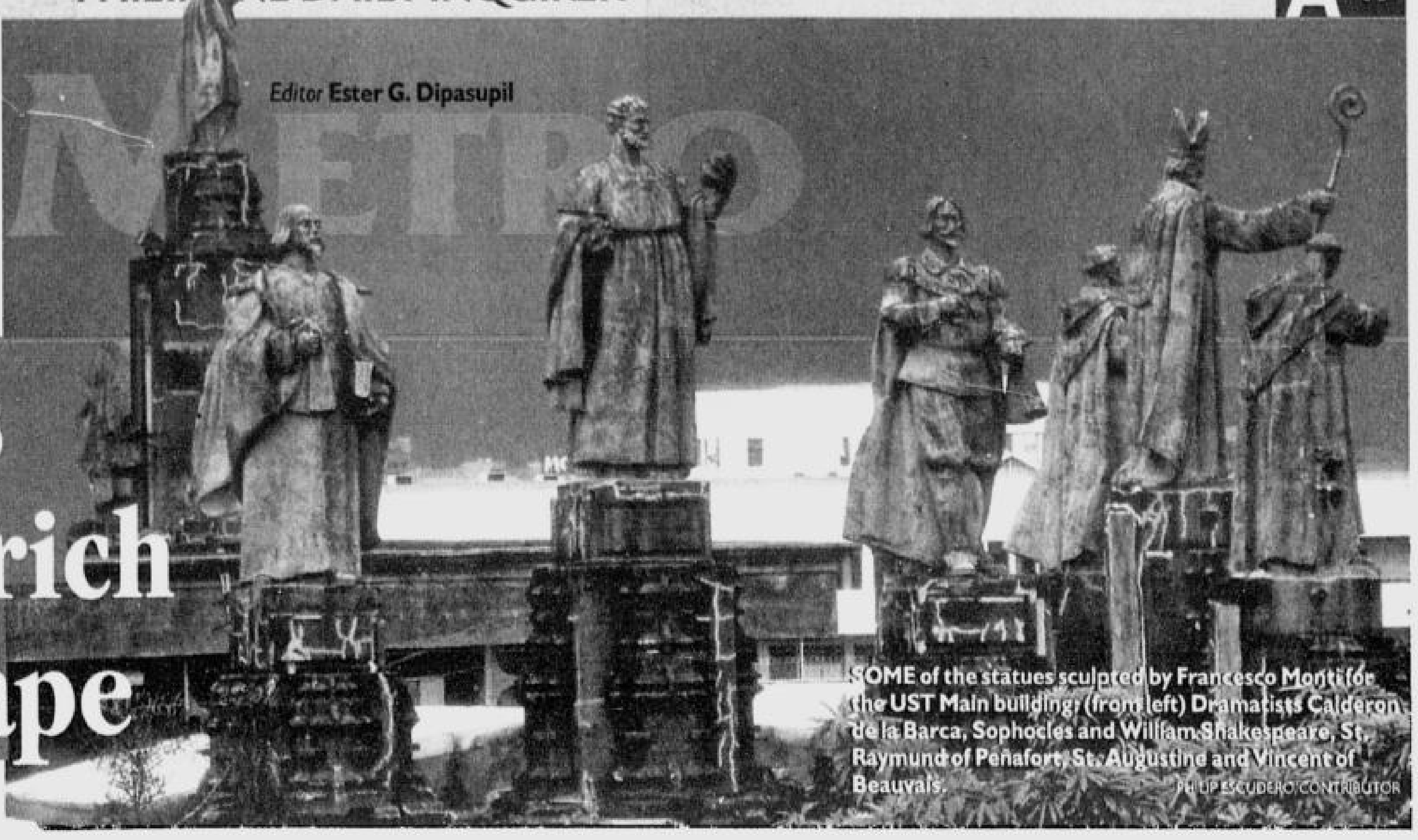
Italian artist's sculptures enrich Metro landscape



SOME of the statues sculpted by Francesco Monti for the UST Main building: (from left) Dramatists Calderon de la Barca, Sophocles and William Shakespeare, St. Raymund of Peñafort, St. Augustine and Vincent of Beauvais. PHILIP ESCUDERO/CONTRIBUTOR

Monti's works found in Sto. Domingo Church, the Met and Don Bosco

By Miko L. Morelos

HIS NAME MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR, BUT Francesco Riccardo Monti's contributions to modern Philippine art and the enrichment of the Metro Manila landscape should not be taken for granted.

Monti, an Italian sculptor, was responsible for the unique statues and relief panels that decorate the Metropolitan Theater in Manila—priceless sculptures that show people a glimpse of a revolutionary trend in the world of art.

But before he carved a niche for himself in the local art community, Monti first endured rejection in his motherland.

Coming from a family of artists in Italy who were known for their sculptures for funerary and architectural works, Monti studied at the Institute of Ponzone for Decorative Arts and Technology. He also went to the Academy of Fine Arts in Milan where he perfected the classical style of sculpting for which he would later become known.

Art deco

Monti's works could be classified as art deco, a style that was considered a reaction to the World War I, when people were forced to live austerely. The use of aluminum, stainless steel, lacquer and inlaid wood, among other materials, are some features of art deco as its extravagant and festive style jibed with designs of cinema theaters and ocean liners.

As he completed his studies in 1908, Monti received commissions to do funerary statues, monuments and other projects in Cremona, his hometown, and nearby cities as well. One of his most famous works was the monument dedicated to the families of the victims of World War I in Cremona and Piacenza.

In 1924, in recognition of his achievements, the king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III—upon the recommendation of Prime Minister Benito Mussolino—bestowed upon Monti the title, "Knight of the Crown of Italy."

Monti continued to do commissions commemorating the victims of the first world war. In November 1928, his entry for the monument to be built in honor of 33 Austro-Hungarian soldiers who died in Cremona, was adjudged the winner. But several days later, organizers, allegedly due to "political maneuvering," changed the result of the competition.

Turning point

Filled with anger and disappointment, Monti left Cremona the following month. Seeking a better place for his art, he went to different parts of Europe before going to the United States where he met Juan Arellano, the noted Filipino architect. Arellano was in New York to study theater design under

ITALIAN/A18

MONTI (left) with sculptor Ting Ping Lay, one of his students at UST, during a class exhibition. BOOTS HERRERA/CONTRIBUTOR

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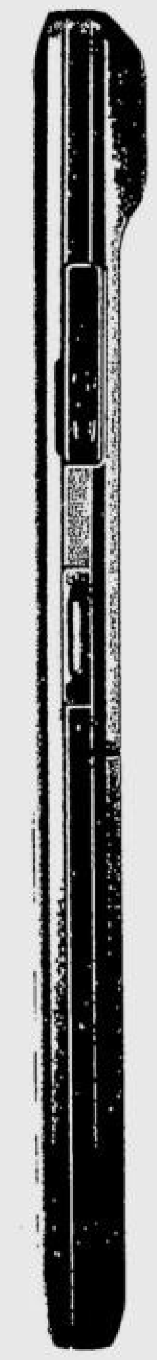
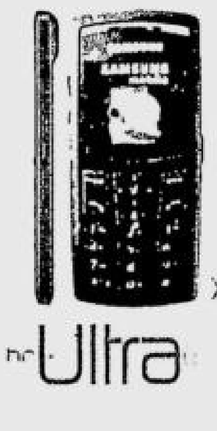




Tondo's little big man saves 4 siblings from burning home

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HEROES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND sizes. And this 10-year-old boy, often described as "too small for his age," is no exception.

John Kennedy Olano, a fourth grade student at the Magat Salamat Elementary School, was watching television with his older brother Genesis, 11, last June 21 in their small house in Tondo, Manila.

It was only a few hours before their afternoon classes, and John Kennedy—fondly called "Moy Moy" by his famil—had been tasked by his mother to look after his younger brothers and sisters, including a month-old infant.

Man of the house

"Moy Moy usually looks after the small children while his brother Genesis takes charge of other chores like sweeping the floor and washing the dishes," his mother, Yolanda, explained to the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Yolanda, who helps make *lumpia* wrappers for a living, had placed the two older boys in charge of the household since she had to leave early for work with her husband, John Kennedy Sr., a pedicab driver.

Around 10 that fateful morning of June 21, Moy Moy noticed black smoke coming out of his uncle's bedroom while they were watching their favorite cartoon show on television.

"We were shocked to see that the fire inside the room was getting big," the 10-year-old said in a soft, unwavering voice.

While his brother, who was suffering from the flu, immediately ran downstairs to call their mother, Moy Moy was thinking about his sleeping brothers and sisters.

Running to their bedroom, Moy Moy scooped up Nino, 1, and infant Jolly in his arms and called on Angelita May, 6, and Angelito, 4, to hold on to his T-shirt.

"I did not mind how heavy they were. At that time I was only concerned about getting them all out," the fourth grader said.

Heavy load

With his small frame and thin arms carrying a toddler and a baby, Moy Moy struggled to get down the stairs with two young children in tow.

At one point, the small group tripped on one of the steps, resulting in a back fracture for Angelita..

But Moy Moy bravely shepherded his siblings out of their home, which was quickly swallowed by the flames along with 12 other houses in the neighborhood.

"I was so happy and relieved when I saw them out on the street," Yolanda recalled. However, the family's joy at seeing the survivors quickly vanished when they saw all their belongings go up in flames.

"Nothing was saved. We did not know what would happen to us then," Moy Moy said.

Bravery rewarded

But the boy's heroism did not go unnoticed. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza heard of Moy Moy's deed and quickly responded by giving the Olanos a 24-sq. m. apartment unit in Tondo.

Karen Gatchalian, a social worker in charge of children in need of social protection in Manila, said the city government also gave the boy's mother enough capital to start a small *sari-sari* (variety) store.

John Kennedy Sr., who used to earn P100 to P200 a day as a pedicab driver, was given a job at City Hall.

"Moy Moy is a very brave boy. Even if he is small for his age, he did not hesitate in saving his brothers and sisters, notwithstanding the danger," Gatchalian said.

The social worker explained that children of the same age usually run away when faced with similar situations.

10-YEAR-OLD Moy Moy: "I just did what I had to do." PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Unusual behavior

"It was unusual for him to possess such courage and presence of mind at such a young age," Gatchalian said.

But the young boy confessed that he was no stranger to bravery. In school, he has stopped his bigger classmates from bullying smaller students.

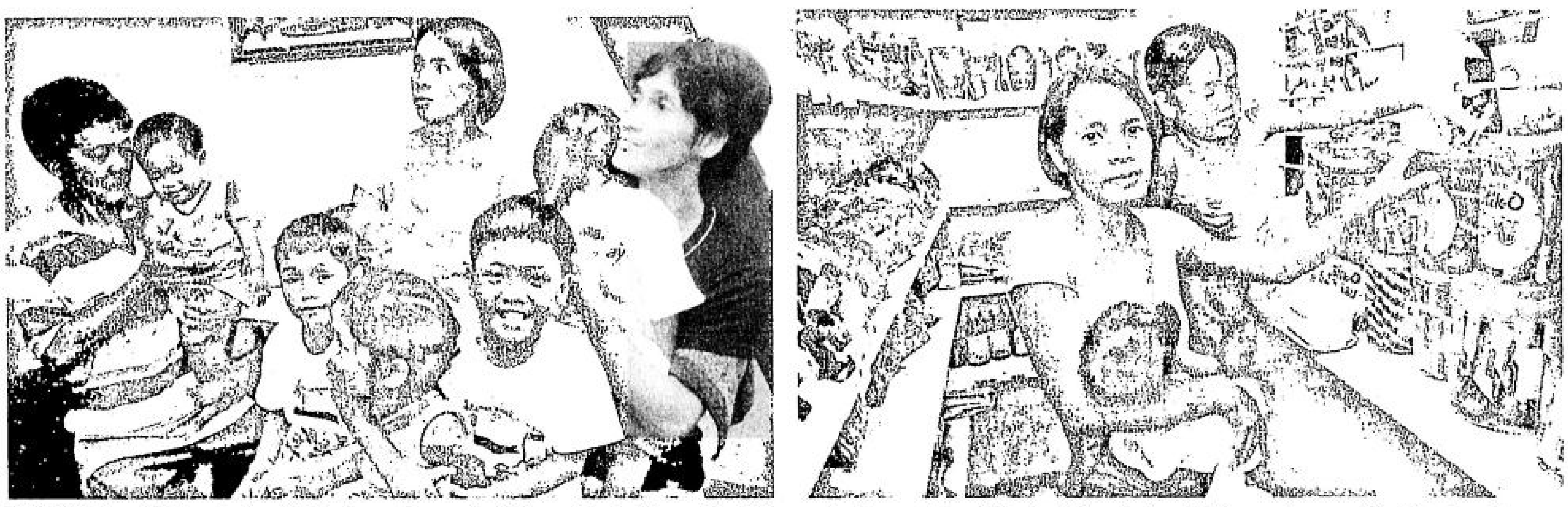
"They listen to me even if I'm this thin," Moy Moy said, laughing. "Maybe they are not used to being scolded by a weaker kid."

Yolanda also said it was in her young son's nature to help other people. The 10-year-old would gallantly offer to take over his older brother's chores and take care of the younger children without any complaint.

"He would also help his classmates who have a hard time doing their homework without asking for anything in return," Yolanda said of her second son.

Moy Moy, however, shook his head shyly when asked if he was proud of what he did.

"I just did what I had to do," the young boy said, in a tone that sounded more mature than his years. "I'm sure anyone in my place would have done exactly the same thing for people they love."



MOY MOY and his family (top) in their new house: A gift from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who learned about the boy's heroic deed. Atienza also gave Moy Moy's mother, Yolanda, enough capital to open a small variety store (right).

Italian artist's sculptures enrich Metro landscape

From page A17

Thomas Lamb, a famous theater and cinema architect whose works included the Ziegfeld Theater and Madison Square Garden.

Arellano invited Monti to come to the Philippines where the two began a fruitful collaboration. Over the next few years, Arellano would design several structures for which Monti would provide the sculptures.

Monti took a risk in moving to a country where he was a virtual unknown. Still, he was determined to make a name for himself in the local art community. In April 1930, he briefly returned to Cremona to sell his possessions. He and his wife Adriana, their two younger daughters Liliana and Sandra then left for Manila, leaving eldest daughter Angiola to the care of his relatives.

His first collaboration with Arellano was a commission from the Manila City government. Arellano, who was supervising architect for the then Department of Public Works, was drawing up the design for the Metropolitan Theater on the orders of then Mayor Thomas Earnshaw.

Monti-Arellano tandem

Monti's sculptures complemented the building's design—Arellano had designed the Met in art deco, the prevalent style during that period. The Italian sculptor's works—"Siamese Dancers" and "Oriental Dancers"—can be found on the building's facade. The sculptures, concrete casts in bronze finish, represent Filipino culture in the theater arts. Two more sculptures, "Adam" and "Eve," were placed in the lobby, near the staircase leading to the theater.

Inside the main theater are seven relief panels, done in concrete casts. Three of them are on the left side of the stage—"Mother and child with swans," "Mother and child on a windy day" and "Magandang Umaga (Good Morning)." On the right side are the panels "Woman with birds," "Woman pouring water" and "Woman with cats and birds." The seventh relief panel is on top of the stage, featuring several groups of people.

After the Metropolitan Theater, the Arellano-Monti tandem was commissioned to work on the Iloilo City Municipal Hall (now the University of the Philippines-Iloilo campus main building). Researchers credit Monti for the free-standing statues "Law" and "Order" guarding its entrance, and the relief of a man and a woman at the doors of the building.

Monti also worked with National Artist for Sculpture Guillermo Tolentino on the Bonifacio Monument in 1933. The statue, which can be seen today at the Caloocan City rotunda, dramatizes Bonifacio's struggle for independence as the leader of the Katipunan.

UST teaching post

In 1948, the University of Santo Tomas offered Monti a teaching post at the College of Architecture and Fine Arts (Cafa) where he was tasked to develop its sculpture program. UST Rector Father Angel de Blas, O.P. gave him one of his biggest commissions—to crown the UST main building with statues of Aristotle, St. Augustine and William Shakespeare, among others, to represent philosophy, religion and literature. But the plan was discontinued in 1953 and only 15 of the originally planned 30 statues were completed. The 40-foot statue of St. Thomas Aquinas, which Monti was supposed to chisel, never came to be.

Monti also heeded the call of the Catholic Church to produce religious figures. Together with Jose Zaragoza, he was commissioned by the Dominican Order to create a mural of the Our Lady of La Naval and the Battle of La Naval. The relief panel, divided into three sections, can be seen at the facade of the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. The concrete cast in silver finish shows the unwavering respect both Spaniards and Filipinos accord to the image and the miraculous battles at Manila Bay and in different parts of Luzon. Monti and Zaragoza also did a cast of St. Dominic de Guzman, the founder of the Order of Preachers, which is now embossed at the right side of the church's facade.

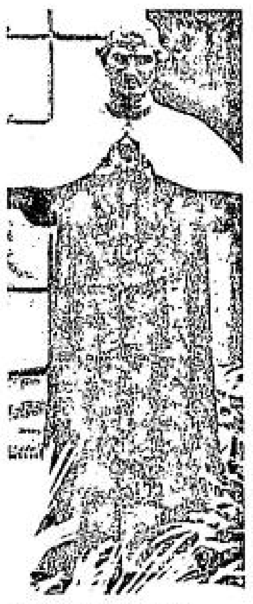
In 1953, he accepted a major commission for the Philippine International Fair, a project of President Elpidio Quirino. For the fair, he created five allegorical statues which he called "Filipinas" and the "Four Freedoms"—Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear.

Fatal car crash

But death knocked on Monti's doors quite early. After finishing the casts of Saints John Bosco and Dominic Savio at the Don Bosco Technical College in Mandaluyong City, he was in high spirits because he was about to be knighted to the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great, the highest honor a lay person can receive from the Vatican. Six days before the ceremony, however, he met a car accident, suffering internal injuries which led to his death on Aug. 11, 1958. He was 70 years old.

Teaching and living side by side with noted UST Cafa faculty members such as Galo Ocampo and National Artists Victorio Edades, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, and Vicente Manansala, Monti was a class of his own. Yet, the Italian sculptor never forgot to show his appreciation for the country that took him in during the lowest point of his career.

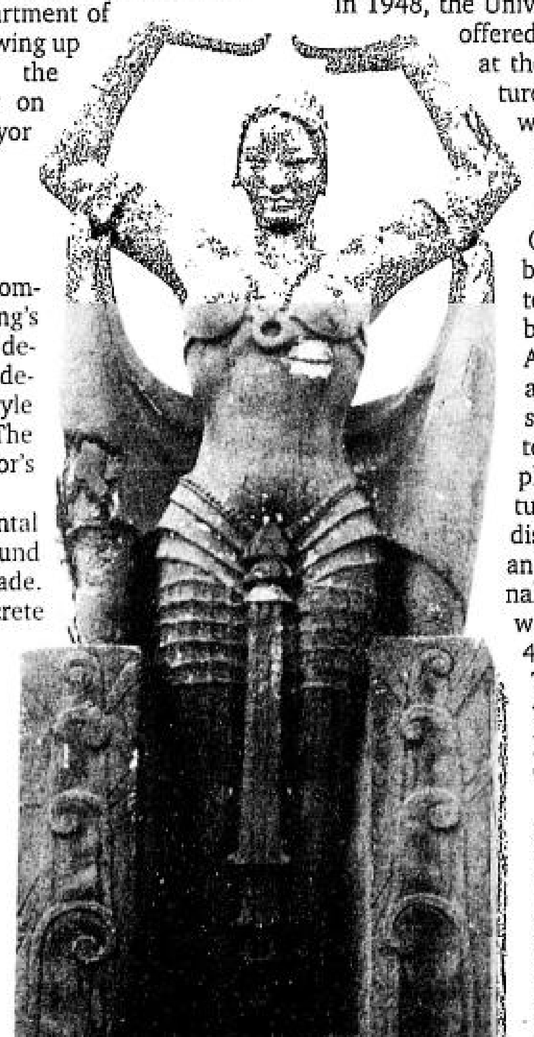
In an interview for the March 1953 issue of the *Varsitarian*, UST's official student publication, Monti expressed his gratitude to the Philippines: "I do fervently wish that I could train one young Filipino artist in the art of sculpture to carry on the work I started. I will die happy that in my humble way, I could have reciprocated the hospitality this beautiful country has given me for the last 25 years."



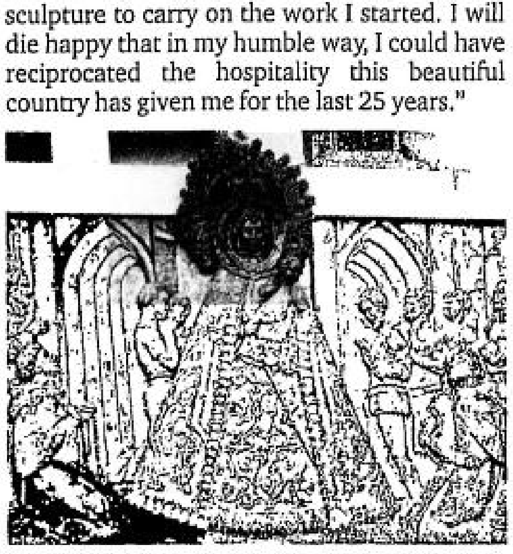
ST. JOHN Bosco

ST. RAYMUND of Peñafort at the UST

ST. DOMINIC Savio at Don Bosco College



SIAMESE Dancer at the Metropolitan Theater PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC AND EDWIN BACASMAS



THE RELIEF panel of Our Lady of La Naval at the Sto. Domingo Church

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METROBRIEFS

Blast hits QC factory

AN EXPLOSION tore a hole in the steel gate of a recycling factory in Quezon City early yesterday morning although no one was hurt. Insp. Arnulfo Franco of the QC Police District said the blast was caused by an improvised explosive device which was hurled in front of the Adanac Development Corp. on Howmart Road, Barangay Baesa at around 1:30 a.m. Franco said it was unlikely that the incident was connected to the series of bombings that had occurred recently in Metro Manila. "Based on our investigation, it could have been done by angry residents due to the continuous operation of the factory despite their complaints." he added. The factory, Franco said, produces "bunker oil" by burning old rubber tires. ' Residents, the policeman told the INQUIRER, have long complained of the bad odor emanating from the factory. There were also reports in the past of some residents throwing stones at the factory, Franco said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

NBI goes high-tech

THE UNITED States Embassy has formally turned over $125,000 or P6.3 million worth of forensic equipment to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) executive officer Palmer Mallari said among the donated equipment were updated software like Gargoyle and Parabens Suite, used for the examination of hand-held devices like cell phones, SIM cards and personal device agents (PDA). Gargoyle, Mallari explained, allows an investigator to scan a hard drive and locate any software typically used by hackers and cyber terrorists. He added that the US Embassy likewise gave three Forensic Towers—among the most advanced forensic computers—and two Mobile Forensic Airlite Laptops. "The laptops will enable us to conduct investigations at the crime scene without having to bring computers containing evidence to our laboratory," the NBI executive officer said. The AFCCD laboratory now boasts of a Hurricane Search 4.0 Professional, which allows an investigator to search a suspect's computer without loading any software into the hard drive.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Nolasco; 90

RETIRED Philippine Air Force Col. Ricardo G. Nolasco Sr., a World War II veteran and hero, died on June 12 at the age of 90. He is survived by wife Josie, children retired Col. Rodolfo Nolasco and Edna, retired Col. Ricardo Nolasco Jr. (chair of the Air Material Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc.), Lt. Col. Roelito Nolasco and Zeny, Maj. Roger Nolasco and Ester, grandchildren Philip, Rochelle, Noel, Joshuah, Hannah, Ryan, Rose Ann, Raymond, Sheryl and Randy, great grandchildren Adam Kalel and Kyle Colin, relatives and friends. His body lies at the Jose Rizal Chapel in La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City. He will be buried today at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City after the 9:30 a.m. Mass

GLOBAL Pinoy
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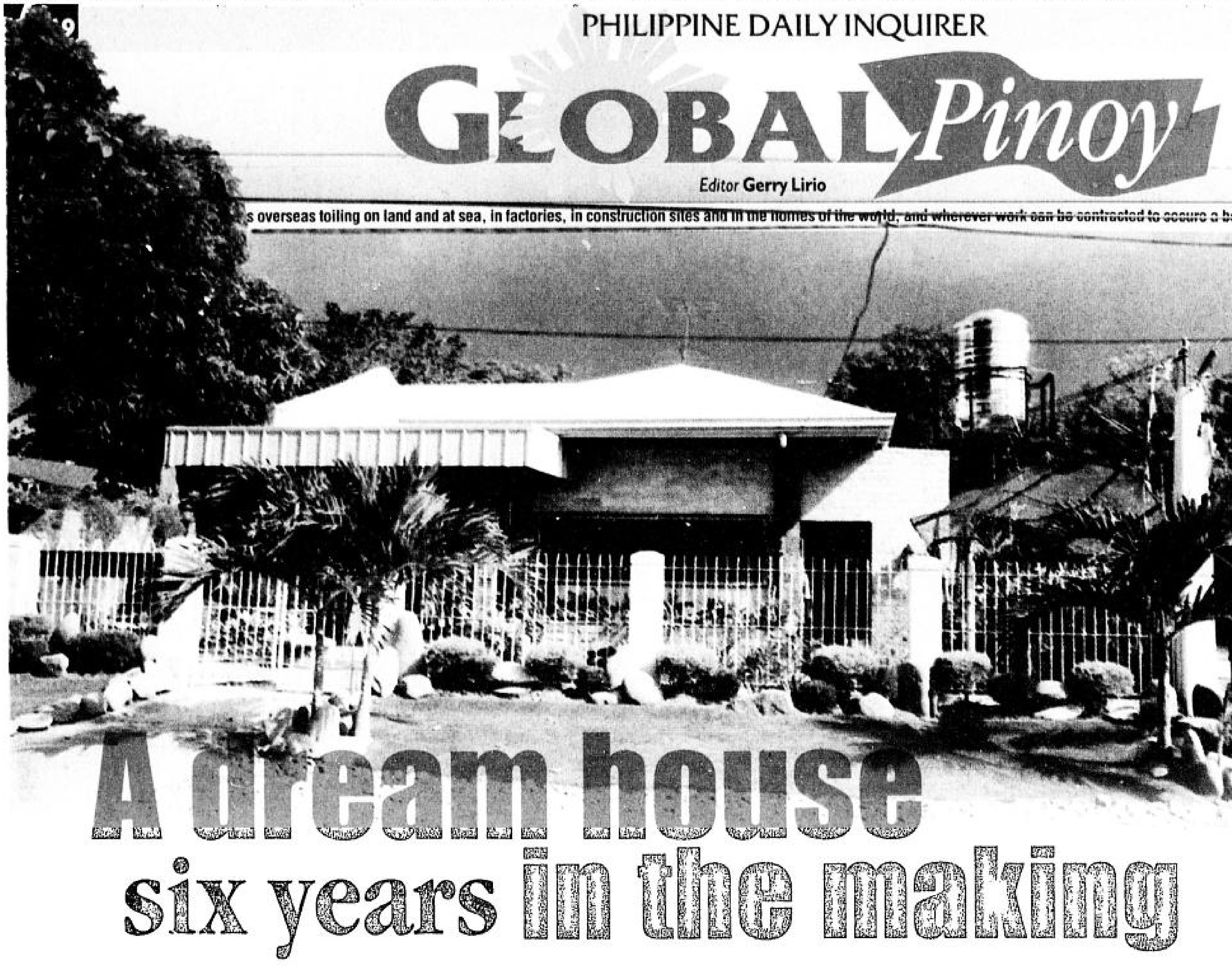
s overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.



THE CLEAR BLUE skies frame this bungalow on Agila Street, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija that serves as a monument to a young man's triumph as a migrant worker.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A dream house six years in the making

By Jeric G. Contreras
Contributor

'Once while having lunch at the house made of second-hand lumber and bamboo posts, the septic tank burst. Imagine how disgusting the smell was. We stopped eating; for the rest of the day we were just laughing'

BACHELOR FERDINAND "FERDIE" GUIAM, 40, OF CUYAPO, Nueva Ecija, fondly remembers the family's dilapidated old house. It took him years to earn enough money to have the house renovated.

It is now a modern bungalow.

"When I was a kid, I promised my parents I would work hard to earn enough money to build a new house," Guiam told the INQUIRER.

Guiam finished BS Medical Technology at Centro Escolar University-Manila (CEU) in 1986. Though he worked as a medical technologist in hospitals for a while after passing the board examination, he realized "being a medical technologist was not a rewarding career in the Philippines."

In 1988, a doctor of Madrid Medical Clinic, where he was working at the time, asked him if he wanted to be the florist of Bauzon Tropical Flowers in Ermita, Manila. He accepted the job that became his stepping stone to success. And it was also where Guiam realized he had a skill in flower arrangement.

The skill would bring him to Saudi Arabia where, from 1988 to 1997, he worked as a flower arranger at the Boumarah & Sons Company in Hofuf Alhassa, earning enough money for the renovation of the old family home.

ONCE upon a time in this old nipa hut, a little boy, who would become a medical technologist, then later a florist, nurtured a dream of providing a good life for his parents.

Construction of their new house began in 1994.

"I was fortunate to land a good job that (paid enough for) my family's financial needs. Every other year, I would return home, (setting aside) money for the construction of our house in Nueva Ecija," he said.

In 1998, while the construction was still ongoing, he decided to quit his job and return to the Philippines, finding it hard to cope with the sudden decrease in his salary following the Gulf War.

Floating florist

But that same year, Guiam read that the Magsaysay Maritime Corporation, recruitment agent for Princess Cruise, was looking for a florist. He applied for the job and was accepted.

He became the first florist to work on what was then the world's biggest ship, M/V Grand Princess.

"(As) a florist in various cruise liners of Princess, I was able to build my dream house, support my siblings and parents, (and) send my nieces and nephews to college," Guiam said.

Guiam has been working as a florist in different Princess ships, his contract expiring every 10 months.

On board, he doubles as a barber for Filipinos and foreigners. He also sells Smart and Globe prepaid cards to his *kababayan*.

Still building

"Whenever I work abroad, I make it a point to send money for the construction of our house. I monitor developments by calling my parents and the people concerned," he said.

The old house was made of second-hand lumber, plywood, and aluminum. Crooked bamboo poles served as posts. The floor, made of steel matting, was raised about 1.5 meters from the ground.

Despite its modest appearance, the old house was filled with memories for Guiam and his family.

THE DREAMER: Guiam at the balcony of the Dawn says, "I got everything I have asked for."

He recalled how, once, when the family was having lunch, the septic tank suddenly burst.

"Just imagine how disgusting the smell was. We stopped eating. Then, for the rest of the day, we were just laughing," he said.

The toilet was outside the house so, to get to it, family members crossed a bridge connecting it to the house. One time, Guiam's mother fell to the ground as she crossed the narrow bridge.

"The house was small and unattractive. But we had a lot of unforgettable memories. I have eight siblings (including three sisters). Our father would … warn us that the house could (collapse)."

Construction of the new house took six years. The new house, where his parents live now, has two bedrooms, two toilets, and a garden near the front gate. It also has a stockroom and a garage. This time, the septic tank is underground.

Guiam's dream of owning a house opposite the old house has been achieved and he also now owns an apartment unit in Sampaloc, Manila.

"(A) dream is not too (difficult to) reach (if there is) hard work and patience … I hope others will (continue) dreaming and working hard," he said..

Invest in land only for use as residence or business

By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

THE WIFE OF AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO worker whose husband remits to her $300 or P15,000 monthly asked if she should invest in real estate because the value of land will always go up.

My general comments are:

- If you just want to invest in land because you believe or are advised it will go up in value, I suggest you think this over very carefully. Land, as an investment, is generally an illiquid investment. It is something you cannot sell very quickly if you need cash.
- The value of land has a good chance of going up in the long term but the money you can make will depend on when you can sell the property. If somebody tells you that your property has gone up in value, those are just words until you actually find a buyer at the price you want. If your neighbor's lot is sold for let's say P200,000, it doesn't mean your lot, even if it is the same size will be sold at the same price or better. It all depends on whether there is a buyer at the time you want to sell.
- Unfortunately, many have lost money on real estate because they were forced to sell at the wrong time. Many more have lost money because the banks foreclosed their property. They did not realize that they only had money for the down payment and could not keep up with the installment payments and/or the maintenance of the property.
- Before you make that investment in real estate, ask yourself first if it is suited to your needs. Is your purpose in buying this lot to build your own home? Or is your purpose just to protect your savings and hope that it will grow in value in the future? If it is to build your own home, then it is a life goal and is certainly worthwhile provided your income can support the amortization payments and all the attendant expenses such as real estate taxes, maintenance costs, etc.
- If however, you are doing this purely to grow your money, make sure that the future increase in value will give you returns that are at least higher than the average annual inflation rate of 7%, given all the risks and expenses that go with real estate ownership.
- For example, let's say you bought a property worth P500,000 15 years ago with P100,000 down payment and installment payments of P4,300/mo (10.5% annual interest) for 15 years or 180 months. You paid a total cash over the 15 years of P874,000 not including the payment of real estate taxes every year and transfer costs. Let's say the property appreciated at an average rate of 7% per year and you sold it for P1,400,000 on the 15th year. You collected P1,316,000 after paying capital gains tax of 6%. What was your gain on this investment over 15 years? The effective yield (gain) on this investment is only 4.74% per year. As an investment, you would have been better off investing in other types of investments such as long-term bond issues of government or private corporations. The average earning rate of such securities is about 8.5% per year after tax. Moreover, these types of investments are very easy to sell if you need cash.
- If you are decided on investing in real estate, then you must have a clear idea of what you will do with the real estate. I believe that real estate should only be purchased for two general purposes:

INVEST/ A20

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Feeling rich even if she came home with nothing

By Gian S. Camacho
Contributor

LOVE IS LOVELIER THE SECOND TIME AROUND: In the company of three of their six children, Rosy (right) and husband Oding virtually renew their wedding vows before Fr. Manuel Bravo (left) upon her return to Bayambang, Pangasinan.

BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN—Rosy Cabangon came home from working abroad with nothing but dashed hopes. Still, she feels like millionaire today. She had hoped her life would change for the better when she returned from working abroad for a year and a half.

But the moment she stepped off the plane and called her husband Oding to inform him of her unexpected arrival and to ask him to pick her up at the airport, she knew nothing had changed.

"I don't know you! I don't know anyone named Rosy!" Oding angrily exclaimed. Her husband was drunk and was in his usual grouchy self in that state.

Cabangon was a part-time househelp and *kubrador* before she left. The mother of six and wife to an alcoholic husband who didn't have a regular job and who would hit her in drunken rages, she knew she needed a steady job to support the family and send her kids to school.

When a recruiter knocked on her door one morning in 2004, she quickly signed up for a two-year contract as a househelp in Kuwait.

Three months later and with a heavy heart, she left her six kids in the care of her husband and was off to Kuwait.

It was not long before she realized that being a domestic helper abroad was not a walk in the park, particularly as she had a rather cruel employer.

Working without pay

"My employer had a very bad temperament," she said. "She would hit me for every mistake I made and throw away the letters I wrote to my family."

After three months of working from morning till late at night without pay and no communication with her family, she decided to escape with the help of a Sri Lankan colleague.

Cabangon asked her agency's Kuwait office for reassignment. She was transferred to a Pakistani household. Her second employer was a lot nicer than the first and she finally received a salary and got in touch with her family again.

But she was dismissed by her second employer after she sustained a minor hand injury at work. She was sent to another Kuwaiti employer.

"My third employers were quite nice," she said. "I received a regular salary and was treated fairly."

Although she didn't have problems with the Kuwaiti couple who employed her, her employers' adolescent son tried to force her into having sex with him.

Cabangon managed to resist his advances but "after a few months, I knew it was time to go home."

Nothing changed

The Kuwaiti couple were reluctant to let her go but understood her predicament. But she had to buy her own plane ticket since she was unable to finish her contract.

After talking to her husband, however, she realized nothing much had changed at home so she decided to seek refuge in the house of a distant relative in Cavite.

"I was devastated," she said. "I thought leaving the country would somehow improve my life but when I arrived with almost no savings and with a drunken husband that didn't even know me, I thought all my sacrifices were for nothing."

A month later, her husband went to Cavite to fetch her. Expecting him to be upset, Cabangon was surprised that he was in a conciliatory mood. Oding apologized for his behavior and asked her to go home with him. He was able to persuade her and the couple returned to Pangasinan.

Regular job

Back home, Cabangon found it was not just her husband's behavior that had changed. It turned out that, a few months after she left for Kuwait, Oding finally got a regular job as personal aide to the town's parish priest, Fr. Manuel Bravo.

Working under Fr. Bravo, Oding managed to reduce his drinking and control his temper. The drunken episode on Cabangon's return was apparently becoming a rarity.

"That time [referring to the time when his wife called him from the airport], I attended a party and got drunk so I wasn't myself. I rarely drink nowadays and, besides, Rosy was using another number that time which I didn't know," he said.

Cabangon's blessings didn't stop there. Much to her surprise, Oding saved all the money she sent during her stay in Kuwait. With their savings, the couple put up a small store in their neighborhood. With Oding's earnings and the money they get from their small business, Cabangon hopes her worries will now be a thing of the past.

"I left for Kuwait hoping that our lives would improve," she said. "Save for the small problems that my husband and I had when I returned, I am very happy with the results of the risks I took. I didn't come home a millionaire but, somehow, seeing an improvement in our lives makes me feel like one."

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From page A19

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Three DH leaders honored in Hong Kong

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CERVANTES: Most Outstanding

PINGKIHAN: First runner-up

NIEVA: Second runner-up

THREE FILIPINAS WORKING AS domestic helpers in Hong Kong were recently cited by a Filipino community newspaper for their outstanding achievements and contribution to their respective families and the community.

The three were among a dozen overseas Filipino workers nominated for the title "Most Outstanding OFW 2006" award given out by The Sun to celebrate its 10th anniversary on June 4, 2006 in Central, Hong Kong.

Handing out the awards were then-Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, Consul General Alejandrino A. Vicente and The Sun publisher Leo A. Deocadiz.

The winners were: Gloria Sapalo Cervantes, "Most Outstanding OFW,"; Josefina Carolina Pingkihan, first runner-up; and Teodora H. Nieva, second runner-up.

Below are bio-sketches of the winners.

GLORIA SAPALO CERVANTES, President, Federation of Iloilo Associations, Sumakwelan Association

For Gloria Sapalo Cervantes, winning the "Most Outstanding OFW 2006" award could not have come at a most opportune time. After working for 21 long years as an overseas Filipino worker in Hong Kong, she bid the territory goodbye on June 15.

"Manang Glo," who is 63 and is a widow, said that though she would miss the many friends that she made in Hong Kong, she was not going home with a heavy heart.

After all, her five children have all completed their studies, and she had saved enough money to start her own kindergarten school in her Iloilo hometown.

But being a conscientious community leader, she worried a bit about a rift that was threatening to divide the Ilonggo Federation, of which she was the head.

"The Ilonggos here listen to me, and I'm worried that when I leave, they will decide to split up," she says.

But ever the optimist, she hopes the much younger officers of the Federation would be able to patch things up.

Exemplary civic leader

Manang Glo was cited by the three-man panel that decided on the winners of the Outstanding OFW Award as an "exemplary community leader."

In particular, they noted her following achievements: (1) helping save a fellow OFW from committing suicide in 1986; (2) spearheading fund-raising projects in Hong Kong for a church and school in Iloilo; (3) helping promote tourism in the Philippines through two "Ati-Atihan" festivals she organized in HK in 2000 and 2001; (4) sending all her five sons through college while working as an OFW; and (5) embodying "excellence" by leading groups through championships in quiz shows and dancing competitions.

Employer's affection

Add to these the accolades given her by her employer for the past 19 years: "Gloria is a person who not only has strong moral beliefs but also takes action to support those beliefs. She speaks frankly and fearlessly but is not confrontational. No matter how strongly she feels about an issue, she does not lose her temper. In fact, in all the years she has worked for me, I have never seen her lose her temper. She is so reasonable and easy to talk to," the endorsement written by her employer, Victoria Lee, says in part.

The letter then adds: "There are no words that can describe the affection that we have for Gloria. She is family."

Asked what her employer's reaction to her winning was, Manang Glo said with a smile: "All she said was, 'at last.'"

Mrs. Lee was apparently as disappointed as Manang Glo for her failure to win the "Bagong Bayani" award of the Department of Labor and Employment last year.

Still, Manang Glo managed to shrug it off by saying that the DOLE apparently decided to bestow the award to OFWs in Saudi Arabia, after three workers in Hong Kong were given the honor the last time the competition was held in 2003.

She herself was happy that her work of more than two decades had been recognized by The Sun and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Hong Kong.

"I will always be grateful for this," she says. "This is the best send-off I could ever hope for."

JOSEFINA CAROLINA K. PINGKIHAN, President, Cordillera Alliance

Josefina Carolina K. Pingkihan or "Josie" considers herself among the militant, or progressive group in Hong Kong's Filipino community, and is happy that her effort and concern for her fellow migrant workers have been recognized.

"Militante ako, at palaging OFWs ang concern ko. Happy ako dahil may place pala ang ginagawa ko sa community ... to be considered outstanding," she said.

Josie also praised the head of the panel of judges, Labor Attaché Bernardino Julve.

"I commend Labatt, the head of the judges." She added, "He is within (the PCG) *pero nagsasalita din* (voices out his opinion)."

But Josie would have wanted to see more nominees to the contest because she believes that there are a lot of deserving OFWs out there who should be recognized. She also thinks there should be more specific rules and guidelines for the contest.

In inviting nominations to the search, The Sun specified that the nominee must have been an overseas Filipino worker for at least 10 years, must be of good moral character, and must have contributed to the betterment of her/his family and community either here or in Hong Kong.

But despite the slight misgivings, Josie says the Search for the Most Outstanding OFW was a welcome initiative.

TEODORA H. NIEVA, President, Overseas Filipino Workers Investors and Entrepreneurs (OFWIE)

Teodora H. Nieva or "Dorie" prepares her members for their eventual return to the Philippines by helping them acquire new skills through OFWIE's numerous livelihood projects.

On learning that she bagged third honors in The Sun's Search for Most Outstanding OFW contest, she said she was overjoyed as she did not expect to win.

"I'm not exposed. They are more active. I stayed only in the sidelines," she said.

She was all praises for the event, saying it was a magnificent effort to give due recognition to OFWs.

"It's nice. They are recognizing the achievements of the leaders. There are too many organizations here, but sometimes the leaders are overlooked—even if these people work without anything in return. Nakakataba ito ng puso."

Dorie's employers, who have always been supportive of Dorie and OFWIE, treated her to a sumptuous dinner upon hearing that she had won the contest.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

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Text us your feedback:
inquirer gp name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

s overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

THE CLEAR BLUE skies frame this bungalow on Agila Street, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija that serves as a monument to a young man's triumph as a migrant worker.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A dream house six years in the making

By Jeric G. Contreras
Contributor

'Once while having lunch at the house made of second-hand lumber and bamboo posts, the septic tank burst. Imagine how disgusting the smell was. We stopped eating; for the rest of the day we were just laughing'

BACHELOR FERDINAND "FERDIE" GUIAM, 40, OF CUYAPO, Nueva Ecija, fondly remembers the family's dilapidated old house. It took him years to earn enough money to have the house renovated.

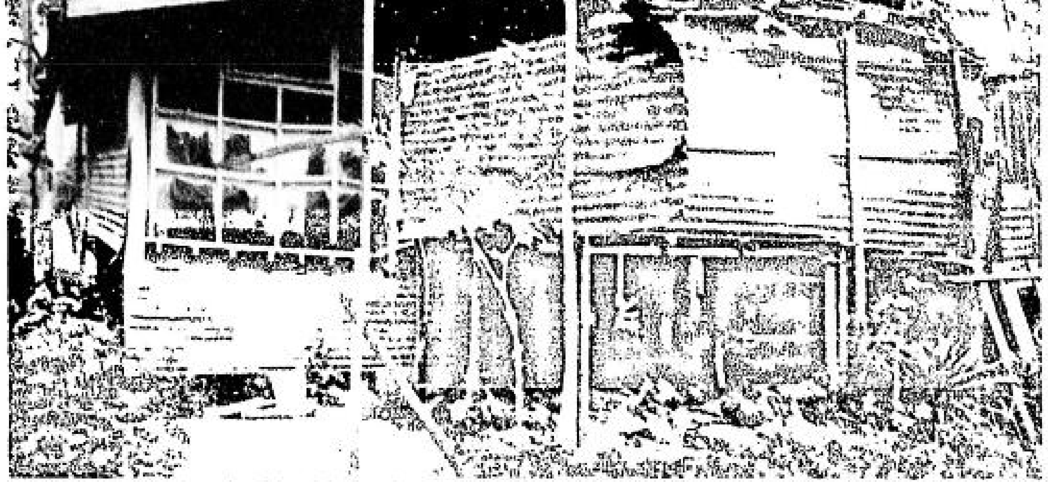
It is now a modern bungalow.

"When I was a kid, I promised my parents I would work hard to earn enough money to build a new house," Guiam told the INQUIRER.

Guiam finished BS Medical Technology at Centro Escolar University-Manila (CEU) in 1986. Though he worked as a medical technologist in hospitals for a while after passing the board examination, he realized "being a medical technologist was not a rewarding career in the Philippines."

In 1988, a doctor of Madrid Medical Clinic, where he was working at the time, asked him if he wanted to be the florist of Bauzon Tropical Flowers in Ermita, Manila. He accepted the job that became his stepping stone to success. And it was also where Guiam realized he had a skill in flower arrangement.

The skill would bring him to Saudi Arabia where, from 1988 to 1997, he worked as a flower arranger at the Boumarah & Sons Company in Hofuf Alhassa, earning enough money for the renovation of the old family home.



ONCE upon a time in this old nipa hut, a little boy, who would become a medical technologist, then later a florist, nurtured a dream of providing a good life for his parents.

Construction of their new house began in 1994.

"I was fortunate to land a good job that (paid enough for) my family's financial needs. Every other year, I would return home, (setting aside) money for the construction of our house in Nueva Ecija," he said.

In 1998, while the construction was still ongoing, he decided to quit his job and return to the Philippines, finding it hard to cope with the sudden decrease in his salary following the Gulf War.

Floating florist

But that same year, Guiam read that the Magsaysay Maritime Corporation, recruitment agent for Princess Cruise, was looking for a florist. He applied for the job and was accepted.

He became the first florist to work on what was then the world's biggest ship, M/V Grand Princess.

"(As) a florist in various cruise liners of Princess, I was able to build my dream house, support my siblings and parents, (and) send my nieces and nephews to college," Guiam said.

Guiam has been working as a florist in different Princess ships, his contract expiring every 10 months.

On board, he doubles as a barber for Filipinos and foreigners. He also sells Smart and Globe prepaid cards to his *kababayan*.

Still building

"Whenever I work abroad, I make it a point to send money for the construction of our house. I monitor developments by calling my parents and the people concerned," he said.

The old house was made of second-hand lumber, plywood, and aluminum. Crooked bamboo poles served as posts. The floor, made of steel matting, was raised about 1.5 meters from the ground.

THE DREAMER: Guiam at the balcony of the Dawn says, "I got everything I have asked for."

Despite its modest appearance, the old house was filled with memories for Guiam and his family.

He recalled how, once, when the family was having lunch, the septic tank suddenly burst.

"Just imagine how disgusting the smell was. We stopped eating. Then, for the rest of the day, we were just laughing," he said.

The toilet was outside the house so, to get to it, family members crossed a bridge connecting it to the house. One time, Guiam's mother fell to the ground as she crossed the narrow bridge.

"The house was small and unattractive. But we had a lot of unforgettable memories. I have eight siblings (including three sisters). Our father would ... warn us that the house could (collapse)."

Construction of the new house took six years. The new house, where his parents live now, has two bedrooms, two toilets, and a garden near the front gate. It also has a stockroom and a garage. This time, the septic tank is underground.

Guiam's dream of owning a house opposite the old house has been achieved and he also now owns an apartment unit in Sampaloc, Manila.

"(A) dream is not too (difficult to) reach (if there is) hard work and patience ... I hope others will (continue) dreaming and working hard," he said.

Invest in land only for use as residence or business

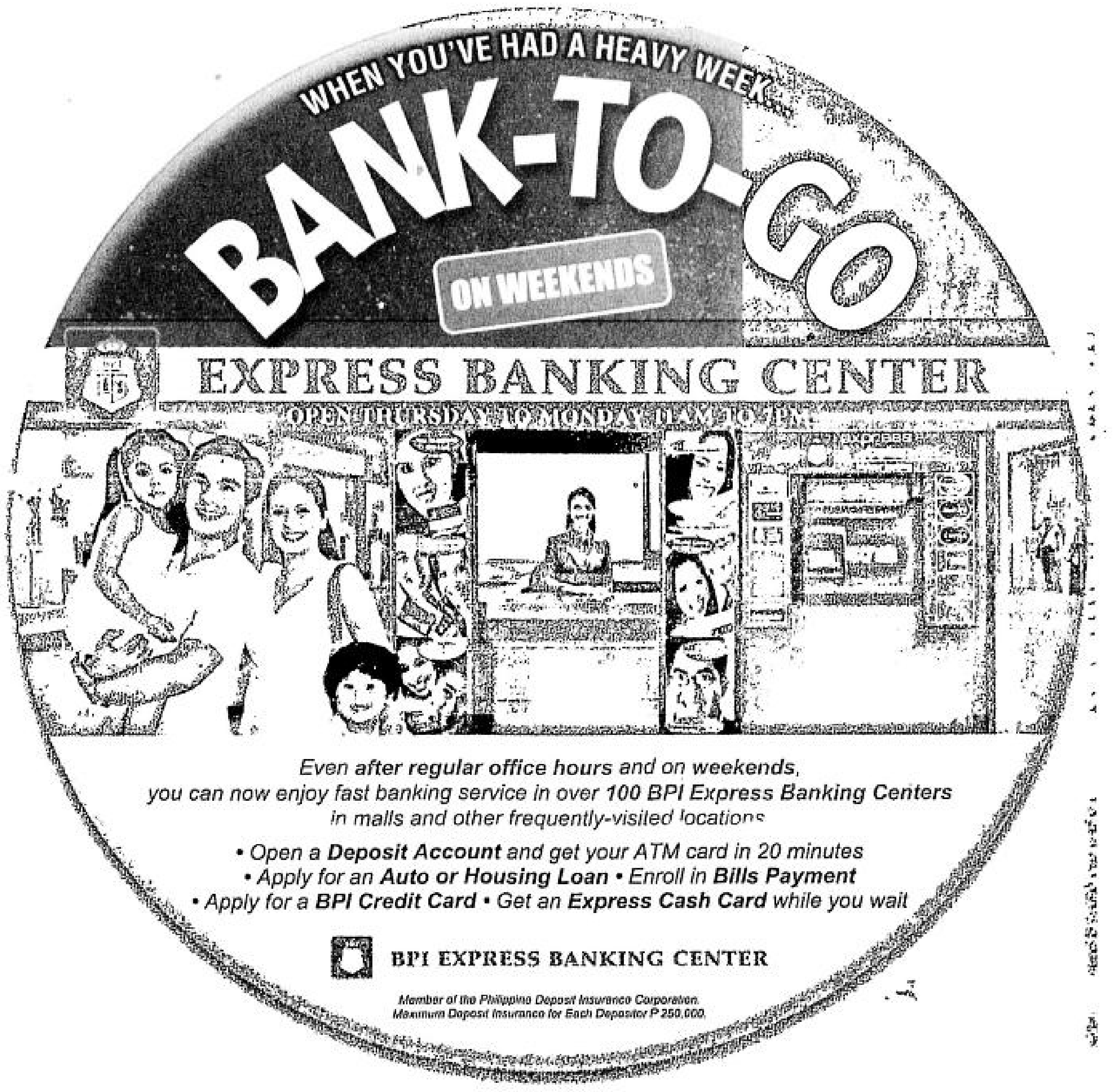
By Francisco J. Colayco
Contributor

THE WIFE OF AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO worker whose husband remits to her $300 or P15,000 monthly asked if she should invest in real estate because the value of land will always go up.

My general comments are:

- If you just want to invest in land because you believe or are advised it will go up in value, I suggest you think this over very carefully. Land, as an investment, is generally an illiquid investment. It is something you cannot sell very quickly if you need cash.
- The value of land has a good chance of going up in the long term but the money you can make will depend on when you can sell the property. If somebody tells you that your property has gone up in value, those are just words until you actually find a buyer at the price you want. If your neighbor's lot is sold for let's say P200,000, it doesn't mean your lot, even if it is the same size will be sold at the same price or better. It all depends on whether there is a buyer at the time you want to sell.
- Unfortunately, many have lost money on real estate because they were forced to sell at the wrong time. Many more have lost money because the banks foreclosed their property. They did not realize that they only had money for the down payment and could not keep up with the installment payments and/or the maintenance of the property.
- Before you make that investment in real estate, ask yourself first if it is suited to your needs. Is your purpose in buying this lot to build your own home? Or is your purpose just to protect your savings and hope that it will grow in value in the future? If it is to build your own home, then it is a life goal and is certainly worthwhile provided your income can support the amortization payments and all the attendant expenses such as real estate taxes, maintenance costs, etc.
- If however, you are doing this purely to grow your money, make sure that the future increase in value will give you returns that are at least higher than the average annual inflation rate of 7%, given all the risks and expenses that go with real estate ownership.
- For example, let's say you bought a property worth P500,000 15 years ago with P100,000 down payment and installment payments of P4,300/mo (10.5% annual interest) for 15 years or 180 months. You paid a total cash over the 15 years of P874,000 not including the payment of real estate taxes every year and transfer costs. Let's say the property appreciated at an average rate of 7% per year and you sold it for P1,400,000 on the 15th year. You collected P1,316,000 after paying capital gains tax of 6%. What was your gain on this investment over 15 years? The effective yield (gain) on this investment is only 4.74% per year. As an investment, you would have been better off investing in other types of investments such as long term bond issues of government or private corporations. The average earning rate of such securities is about 8.5% per year after tax. Moreover, these types of investments are very easy to sell if you need cash.
- If you are decided on investing in real estate, then you must have a clear idea of what you will do with the real estate. I believe that real estate should only be purchased for two general purposes:

INVEST/ A20



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Feeling rich even if she came home with nothing

By Gian S. Camacho
Contributor

LOVE IS LOVELIER THE SECOND TIME AROUND: In the company of three of their six children, Rosy (right) and husband Oding virtually renew their wedding vows before Fr. Manuel Bravo (left) upon her return to Bayambang, Pangasinan.

BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN—Rosy Cabangon came home from working abroad with nothing but dashed hopes. Still, she feels like millionaire today. She had hoped her life would change for the better when she returned from working abroad for a year and a half.

But the moment she stepped off the plane and called her husband Oding to inform him of her unexpected arrival and to ask him to pick her up at the airport, she knew nothing had changed.

"I don't know you! I don't know anyone named Rosy!" Oding angrily exclaimed. Her husband was drunk and was in his usual grouchy self in that state.

Cabangon was a part-time househelp and *kubrador* before she left. The mother of six and wife to an alcoholic husband who didn't have a regular job and who would hit her in drunken rages, she knew she needed a steady job to support the family and send her kids to school.

When a recruiter knocked on her door one morning in 2004, she quickly signed up for a two-year contract as a househelp in Kuwait.

Three months later and with a heavy heart, she left her six kids in the care of her husband and was off to Kuwait.

It was not long before she realized that being a domestic helper abroad was not a walk in the park, particularly as she had a rather cruel employer.

Working without pay

"My employer had a very bad temperament," she said. "She would hit me for every mistake I made and throw away the letters I wrote to my family."

After three months of working from morning till late at night without pay and no communication with her family, she decided to escape with the help of a Sri Lankan colleague.

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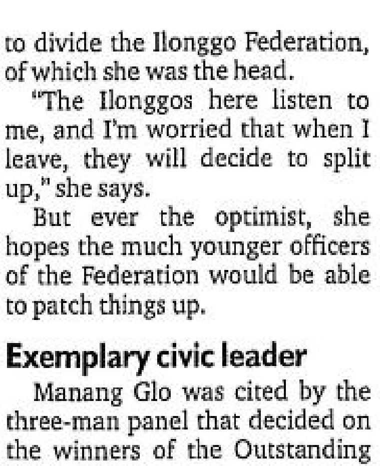
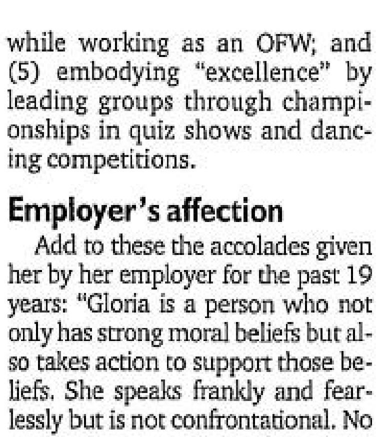


CERVANTES: Most Outstanding



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"I will always be grateful for this," she says. "This is the best send-off I could ever hope for."

JOSEFINA CAROLINA K. PINGKIHAN, President, Cordillera Alliance

Josefina Carolina K. Pingkihan or "Josie" considers herself among the militant, or progressive group in Hong Kong's Filipino community, and is happy that her effort and concern for her fellow migrant workers have been recognized.

"Militante ako, at palaging OFWs ang concern ko. Happy ako dahil may place pala ang ginagawa ko sa community .... to be considered outstanding," she said.

Josie also praised the head of the panel of judges, Labor Attaché Bernardino Julve.

"I commend Labatt, the head of the judges." She added, "He is within (the PCG) *pero nagsasalita din* (voices out his opinion)."

But Josie would have wanted to see more nominees to the contest because she believes that there are a lot of deserving OFWs out there who should be recognized. She also thinks there should be more specific rules and guidelines for the contest.

In inviting nominations to the search, The Sun specified that the nominee must have been an overseas Filipino worker for at least 10 years, must be of good moral character, and must have contributed to the betterment of her/his family and community either here or in Hong Kong.

But despite the slight misgivings, Josie says the Search for the Most Outstanding OFW was a welcome initiative.

TEODORA H. NIEVA, President, Overseas Filipino Workers Investors and Entrepreneurs (OFWIE)

Teodora H. Nieva or "Dorie" prepares her members for their eventual return to the Philippines by helping them acquire new skills through OFWIE's numerous livelihood projects.

On learning that she bagged third honors in The Sun's Search for Most Outstanding OFW contest, she said she was overjoyed as she did not expect to win.

"I'm not exposed. They are more active. I stayed only in the sidelines," she said.

She was all praises for the event, saying it was a magnificent effort to give due recognition to OFWs.

"It's nice. They are recognizing the achievements of the leaders. There are too many organizations here, but sometimes the leaders are overlooked—even if these people work without anything in return. Nakakataba ito ng puso."

Dorie's employers, who have always been supportive of Dorie and OFWIE, treated her to a sumptuous dinner upon hearing that she had won the contest.

India: Peace with Pakistan threatened by blasts

MUMBAI—INDIAN PRIME MINISTER Manmohan Singh warned Friday the peace process with Pakistan could be harmed by the Mumbai train bombings and alleged the attackers had support "from across the border."

The premier, on his first visit to Mumbai since the blasts that killed 179 and injured nearly 800, warned the peace process would struggle to advance unless Pakistan cracked down on militants operating from its soil.

"The terrorists (responsible for the blasts) were supported by elements across the border without which they cannot hit with such an effect," Singh said.

"I explained to the government of Pakistan ... that if such acts of terrorism are not controlled, it is exceedingly difficult for any government to carry forward what may be called the normalization of relations and the peace process," he said.

Pakistan immediately denied Singh's claims.

"These allegations are unsubstantiated, we have already rejected them," foreign office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam told AFP.

But the spokesperson said the peace process was a "separate matter," noting: "It is in the interest of both Pakistan and India and the region, that is why we believe that the peace process must be continued and carried forward."

Senior police in Mumbai say Tuesday's rush-hour bombings bear the hallmarks of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a pro-Pakistan Islamist group based in divided Kashmir that has been blamed for previous attacks in India.

India and Pakistan in 2004 embarked on a peace process in the near six-decade dispute over Kashmir, the subject of two of the three wars fought by the nuclear-armed rivals since independence from Britain.

Efforts to resolve the dispute over the Himalayan region—which both countries control in part and claim in full—have been slow, with a date for the next round of talks at a foreign secretarial level still to be agreed.

Antiterrorist police, under pressure to produce a breakthrough, said they were pursuing "important leads" but added the identity of the group behind Tuesday's blasts remained "hazy."

"We're exploring every single angle. We have some picture in view but it's very hazy," additional commissioner of police Jayjit Singh said. *AFP*

2 California fires merge into a single blaze

LOS ANGELES—TWO VAST fires east of Los Angeles merged late Friday after scorching tens of thousands of hectares and destroying hundreds of buildings near the famed Joshua Tree National Park.

Thousands of firefighters fought the blaze that swept through mountain scrub east of Los Angeles for a fifth day, threatening some 3,000 new buildings after engulfing 45 homes and 118 other buildings in an area made famous in Western films.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said two civilians and nine firefighters had suffered minor injuries and that mandatory evacuations remained in effect for part of San Bernardino County.

"The two fires are together since (Friday) afternoon," firefighter spokesperson Kristel Johnson told AFP.

The two fires met in the heart of the San Bernardino National Park, where hectares of dry wood weakened by years of drought provided a ready-made tinderbox. Rough terrain also made it difficult for firefighters to battle the blaze.

The two blazes have scorched 25,000 hectares over the past days.

Thousands of firefighters battling the blaze were preparing Saturday for another day of high temperatures and dry weather, combined with dangerous strong winds.

California declared a state of emergency Thursday for southern parts of the state, with fires sweeping an area some 200 km east of Los Angeles.

Johnson said there was still no evacuation order for residents of the Big Bear mountaintop resort region, where thousands of southern California residents have vacation homes.

Nearly 1,000 people were forced to evacuate their homes on Tuesday in half a dozen towns, including Pioneertown, where scores of famous Westerns have been filmed since the 1940s. *AFP*

SMOKE rises from a back burn of the Sawtooth Complex fire near Morongo Valley, Calif., July 14. Thousands of firefighters struggled to keep a newly merged Sawtooth fire and Millard fire from gaining a foothold in the populated San Bernardino Mountains. AP

UN Council edges closer to vote on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS—THE SECURITY Council late Friday narrowed differences over mandatory UN sanctions against North Korea for its missile tests, with only one sticking point standing in the way of a vote expected Saturday, diplomats said.

French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere, the council president for July, told reporters after closed-door consultations that the 15-member body would resume consultations on a revised draft resolution at 3 p.m. (1900 GMT) Saturday.

The compromise text "is ready to be put to a vote we hope for action tomorrow," Japanese Ambassador Kenzo Oshima said.

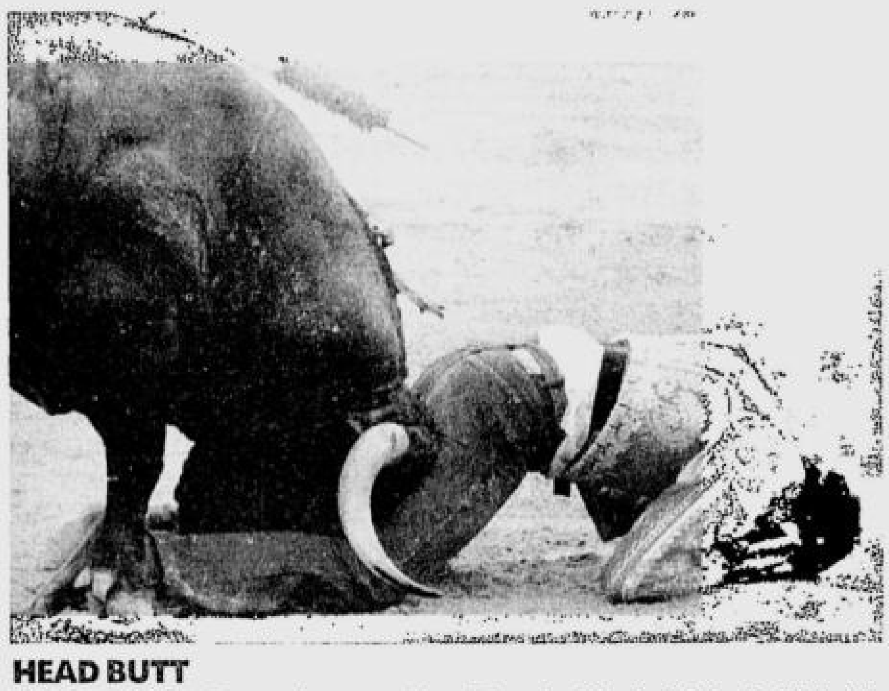
The remaining sticking point is the text's reference to Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, which can authorize mandatory sanctions or even the use of force.

China has made it clear it will veto any text that invokes Chapter Seven.

But US Ambassador John Bolton signaled that even without that reference, the draft would still be legally binding. His comment appeared to indicate that the co-sponsors were prepared to drop the reference to mollify the Chinese.

"It is not required to have a binding resolution to use the word Chapter Seven," he noted, adding that he had been instructed by his government to seek a vote Saturday.

The compromise text was thrashed out in day-long haggling involving ambassadors of the five veto-wielding permanent members of the council—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—as well Japan. *AFP*



HEAD BUTT

Matador Antonio Ferrera is rammed by a Victorino Martin fighting bull July 14, during the last corrida of the San Fermin festivities in Pamplona, Spain. AFP

Napoleon fish could meet its Waterloo

JAKARTA—THE NAPOLEON FISH, Emperor of tropical coral reefs, is battling for survival: Often illegally fished, it is sold for high prices to Chinese buyers who prize its delicate flesh.

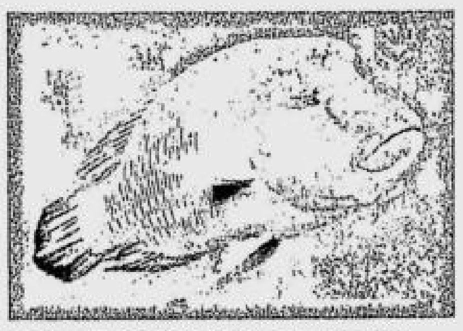
The latest attempt at smuggling this giant of the seas with a curious bump on its head occurred last month: 36 of the fish, known also as the humphead wrasse, were seized at Manado airport, on Indonesia's Sulawesi island.

They had been destined for the steaming restaurants of Hong Kong, where one kilogram of the rare fish fetches $80 to $130.

Yvonne Sadovy from the World Conservation Union (IUCN) warns that one of the challenges facing the species is that it does not reproduce as readily as species such as sardines or anchovies.

The fish, which can weigh up to 200 kilograms and exceed two meters, does not reach sexual maturity until it is nearly 5 years old. But fishermen aim to capture young prey, which have not yet had a chance to procreate.

"They are potentially threatened if nothing is done," warns Sadovy, an expert on the fish from the University of Hong Kong. *AFP*



THE NAPOLEON FISH: Battling for survival. AFP

WorldBriefs

30 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—At least 30 people were killed across Iraq Friday, including 13 Iraqi soldiers in an attack on their checkpoint near the northern oil hub of Kirkuk, security officials said. Gunmen "came in many vehicles and opened fire on the soldiers who were guarding the checkpoint and killed all the 13, including an officer," Col. Mahmud Abdullah said. In Baghdad, where a massive security crackdown is on since last month, at least seven worshippers were killed after Friday prayers in a bombing outside a Sunni mosque, a security official said. In the restive northern city of Mosul four people were killed, including two policemen, in a suicide car bomb attack in the city's central Muthanna neighborhood, police said. Also in Mosul, a policeman and a bodyguard of a judge were shot dead in separate attacks by gunmen, police said. A civilian was killed and nine others were wounded in a mortar attack in Baghdad's Zafaraniyah neighborhood. *AFP*

Jury orders Jacko to pay damages

LOS ANGELES—A California jury awarded $900,000 in damages Friday to an associate of "King of Pop" Michael Jackson for unpaid expenses arising from work he did on the troubled star's album and video. But the jury in a split decision also said the associate, Marc Schaffel, owed Jackson $200,000 based on a countersuit filed by the singer. The 47-year-old pop star, who has recently been living in Bahrain, was initially sued for $3.8 million before the claim was reduced to $1.4 million. *AFP*

Blair's Labor deemed 'sleazier' than last gov't

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair's governing Labor party is "sleazier" than the Conservative administration it replaced nine years ago, according to an opinion poll published here Saturday. The poll for the Daily Telegraph found that 69 percent of those questioned now view Labor as "very sleazy and disreputable" compared with 63 percent who thought the same of the Tory government in 1997. *AFP*

US public, private schools comparable in performance

WASHINGTON—THE FEDERAL Education Department reported Friday that, in reading and math, children attending public schools generally do as well as or better than comparable children in private schools. The exception was in eighth-grade reading, where the private school children did better.

The report, which compared fourth- and eighth-grade reading and math scores from nearly 7,000 public schools and over 530 private schools in 2003, also found that conservative Christian schools lagged significantly behind public schools when it came to eighth-grade math.

The study, carrying the imprimatur of the National Center for Education Statistics, part of the education department, was contracted to the Educational Testing Service and delivered to the department last year.

It went through a lengthy peer review and includes an extended section of caveats about its limitations and calling such a comparison of public and private schools "of modest utility."

Its release, on a summer Friday, was made without a news conference or comment from Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

Reg Weaver, president of the National Education Association, the union for millions of teachers, said the findings showed that public schools were "doing an outstanding job" and that if the results had been favorable to private schools, "there would have been press conferences and glowing statements about private schools." *NYT*

Ignorance breeds children among Kenya teens

By Lucie Peytermann

NAIROBI—MARGARET WAIGUMO cuddles her baby in a squalid house in the teeming "Soweto" slum east of Nairobi, joining the growing number of teen parents in Kenya, victims of taboos that inhibit sex education.

Waigumo, 18, became pregnant two years ago after being forced into prostitution to help her family after they were evicted from their hovel for non-payment of the 500-Kenyan shilling ($6.80) monthly rent.

"Some of my friends advised me that instead of lying in poverty, you can get some money through commercial sex," she recalls, twitching her fingers as she recounted her tale.

She had never had sex before, never received any information about contraception, and would end up selling her body to men in a local pub for 500 shillings if they used a condom, double that without protection.

"I didn't know that contraceptives or family planning existed," she said. "I didn't know that I could get pregnant." Many teenage pregnancies in Kenya—where 55 percent of the 33 million people are under 19, according to a 2003 study—are blamed on lack of information about sex and traditions that frown on discussing it with children.

According to that study, more than 25 percent of Kenyan girls between 15 and 19 are either pregnant or mothers. Eighty-five percent of 15- to 19-year-olds and 72 percent of those between 20 and 24 do not use contraceptives.

In addition, 70 percent of all adolescents engage in unprotected sex. About 1.2 million Kenyans are HIV positive and some 1.5 million people have died of HIV/AIDS since 1984, it says.

"The veil of silence on sexual issues has to be removed," said Lucy Kang'ara, a lecturer at Kenya's Egerton University. "It's a taboo in African society to talk about sex. It is always hidden in a lot of secrecy in Kenya."

The situation is more dramatic in slums due to lack of access to media and other sources of information, and parents never discuss sexual issues openly with their children.

"There is a distance between my mother and me," says Waigumo. "I'm angry against everything, against educators, family and circumstances which forced me" into prostitution, she adds.

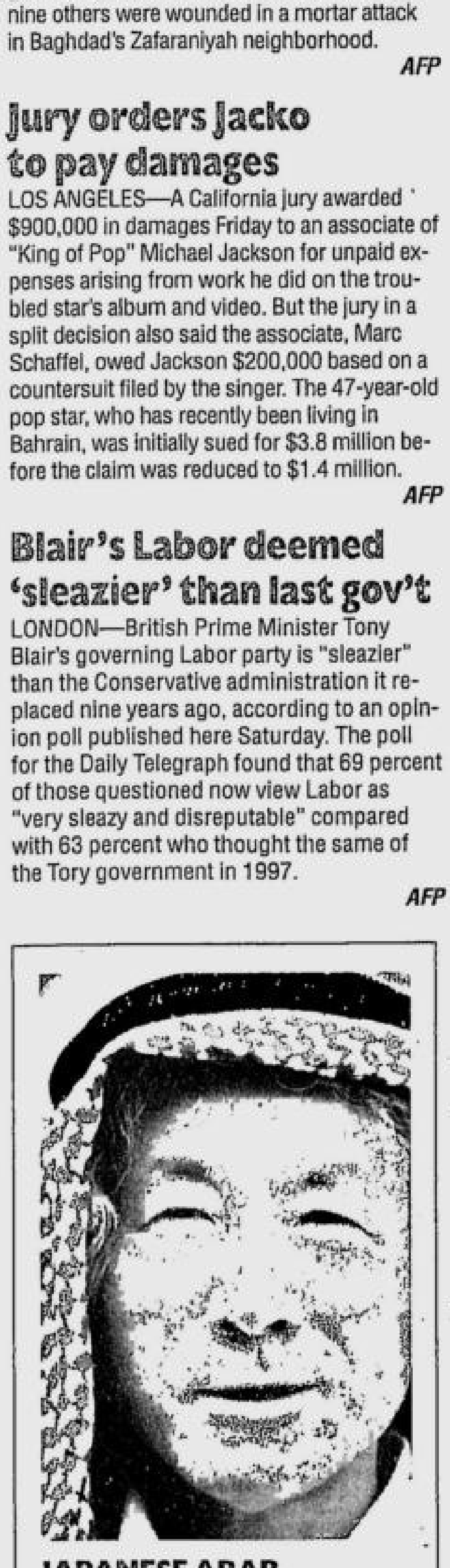
Yvonne Wairomu, a 16-year-old orphan who lives with her cousin in Soweto, has been engaging in unprotected sex since she was 14 and uses no contraceptives.

"My cousin is selling illegal brew but the business is not good," she says. "To get money, sometimes I go to wash clothes, sometimes I go for commercial sex. I don't have access to any contraceptives or anything.

"The only thing I can prevent myself is pregnancy, using the safe days," Wairomu says.

An orphan, she had no parents to educate her but other youth here say their mothers and fathers are reluctant if not totally opposed to discussing the facts of life.

"Our parents are not in a position to say something," said Soweto teen Michael Wanjoh. "They normally think it's not the right time and I've never found a parent to talk to." *AFP*



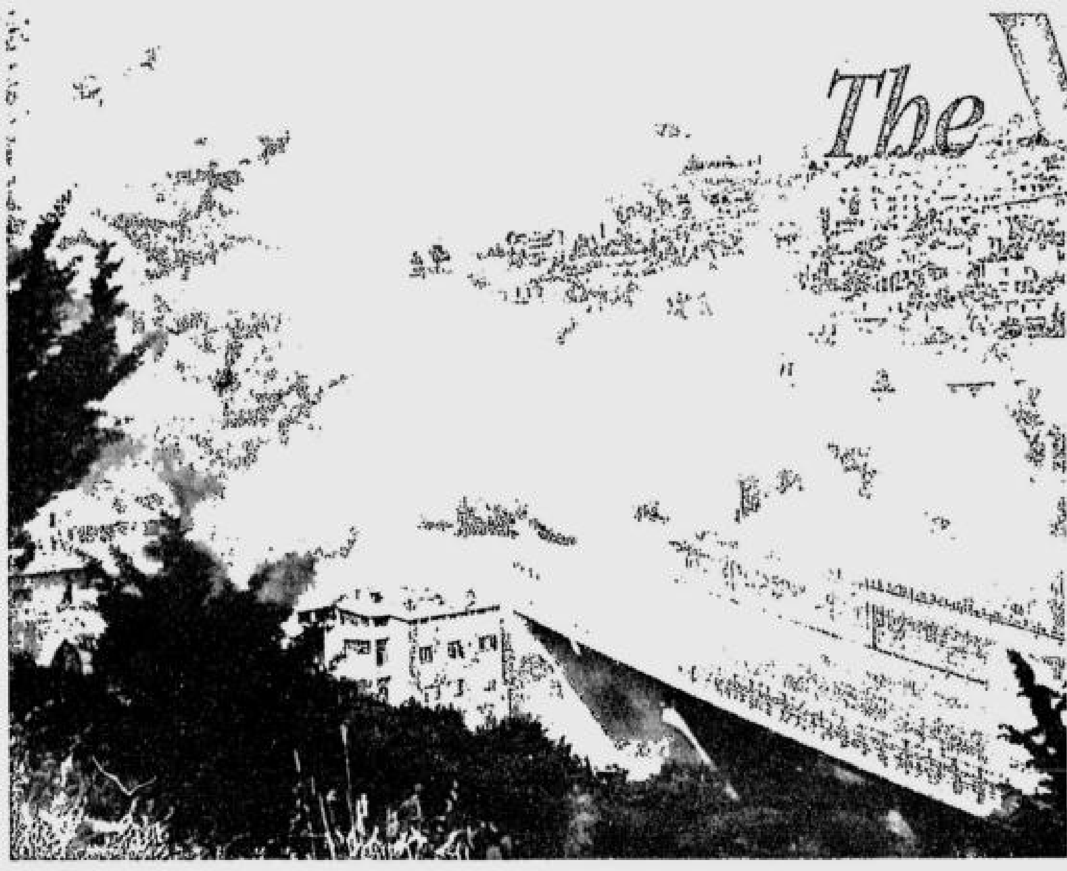
JAPANESE ARAB

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi wears a Kaffieh, during his visit to Petra, Jordan July 14. AFP

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Hezbollah declares open war on Israel



SMOKE rises from a bridge after an Israeli air raid in the Sawfar region, on the highway between Beirut and Damascus, Lebanon, July 14. AP

BEIRUT—ISRAEL KEPT UP ITS blistering offensive against Lebanon Saturday after Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah defiantly declared open war in a conflict that appears to be spiraling dangerously out of control despite international calls for restraint.

Combat jets bombarded Lebanon in a series of dawn raids, slamming missiles into bridges and petrol stations and killing four people on the fourth day of fighting that has so far claimed the lives of around 90 people on both sides.

Emerging unscathed after Israeli air strikes late Friday on his home and office in Hezbollah's southern suburbs, Nasrallah warned: "You wanted an open war, you will get an open war."

And in a dramatic new development, Nasrallah boasted that Hezbollah struck an Israeli warship patrolling off the coast of Lebanon, telling his supporters to "watch it burning."

Israel said four Israeli servicemen were missing after the attack on the vessel, which reports said was hit either by a rocket or an explosives-laden drone. Another civilian ship, believed to be Egyptian, was also hit and set ablaze, Israel said.

While the international community has issued urgent appeals for restraint, world powers appear divided over how to deal with the conflict, which erupted after Hezbollah guerrillas seized two Israeli soldiers in an attack on the volatile Lebanon-Israeli border on Wednesday.

The attack opened up a new battleground in the Middle East following the massive Israeli onslaught against Gaza launched after the capture of another soldier by Palestinian militants three weeks ago.

Israel is under fire from some members of the UN Security Council for using "disproportionate force" against Lebanon and Gaza.

But at an emergency Council debate on the crisis on Friday, the the United States stood alone in refusing to even caution restraint from Israel, instead laying the blame firmly at the feet of Iran and Syria, which both back Hezbollah and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas.

Lebanon is virtually cut off from the outside world after Israel imposed an air and sea blockade, launched repeated strikes on the country's only international airport and bombed the main highway to neighboring Syria.

And in a sign that there would be no early easing of the crisis, Israel army chief Dan Halutz warned his forces would continue to strike Hezbollah and other infrastructure targets in Lebanon. *AFP*

As crisis strikes, Lebanese gov't disappears

By Hassan M. Fattah

BEIRUT—AS THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME Minister Fouad Siniora faced the country's most significant crisis in a decade, its officials disappeared from public view.

As the country underwent the third day of Israeli bombardment on Friday, the Cabinet remained behind closed doors, reportedly brainstorming ideas for a solution. Officials and ministers who normally sought out the press suddenly switched off their cell phones or had assistants screening calls. There were no visits to bombed-out buildings, no photo opportunities at the hospital with the injured, and no fiery speeches in defense of the country.

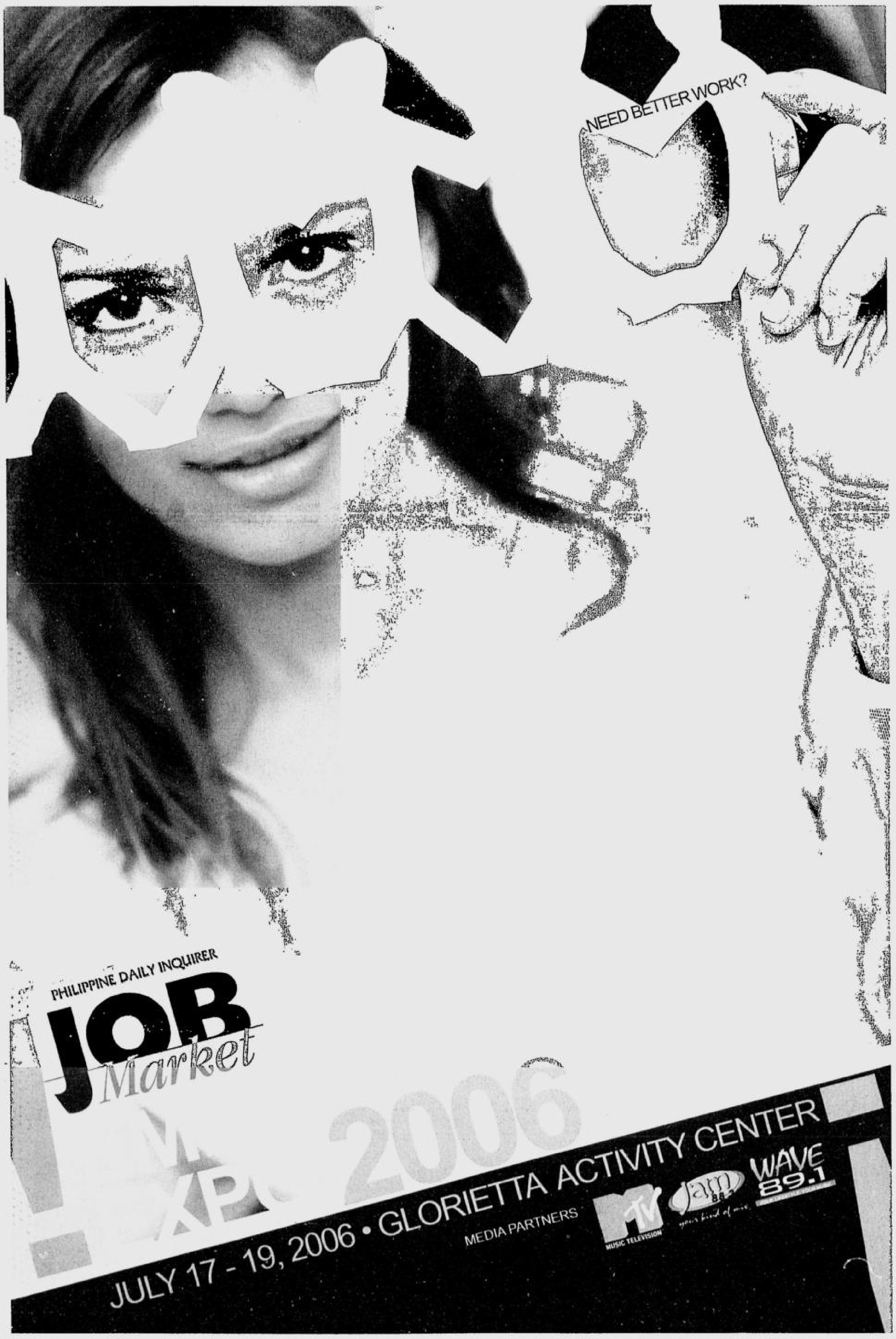
"The government is obviously incapable of taking the lead—Hezbollah long ago did that," said Lamis Karaoui, 27, a lecturer at a private university in Beirut. Hezbollah, she said, now "makes decisions of war and peace, and acts as if it was the government."

Siniora became prime minister last July, seeking to build legitimacy for the government and foster independence from Syria, which had occupied Lebanon for 29 years until it was forced to withdraw last year. The prime minister promised to settle growing sectarian squabbles, restart Lebanon's faltering economy and reduce Hezbollah's firepower while supporting its right to resist.

"Hezbollah wants to play on the old rules and the government wants to play by new rules, but it doesn't want to actually change them," said Hazem al-Amin, a columnist with the pan-Arab daily newspaper Al Hayat. "If they ask the Americans to do something about Israel, the Americans will ask them what they can offer in return. And in fact they can't offer anything."

The government, caught between the international community, which has demanded that it disarm Hezbollah, and the militant Shiite party, which has sought to undermine the government's authority, has been reduced to taking no stand and promising little action.

"We are trying to secure a comprehensive ceasefire and end the blockade—this is our priority now," Siniora said in a terse statement to reporters on Friday evening, before slipping back behind closed doors. *NYT*



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Sunday SPORTS
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Europe cuts Asia lead

By Musong R. Castillo

KENNETH JONASSEN HAD LITTLE TIME to prepare—although it hardly mattered what with his foe not in perfect shape. Gail Emms and Dona Kellogg played so great it seemed that any amount of preparation by their Asian foes wouldn't have mattered.

Europe chopped what was a commanding lead by Asia to 5-4 last night after Jonassen won for the first time in his career against Indon Taufik Hidayat and Emms and Kellogg annihilated their foes in the second day of the MVP Cup: Asia vs Europe 2.

Coming in with only a week's training after a long break, Jonassen slugged it out with the reigning World and Olympic champion Hidayat and prevailed, 21-17, 17-21, 21-12, in one of the most applauded matches of the $100,000 event.

And despite his little preparation, Jonassen felt that he was in better shape than Hidayat.

"This time, I'll say that he (Hidayat) wasn't at his best," Jonassen said.

Hidayat, treated as a national hero in his homeland after that twin feat, is ranked a lowly 23rd in the world after battling an assortment of injuries, the latest of which has been a bad back that has prevented him from

EUROPE/ A26

JONASSEN
DENMARK
SMART

KENNETH Jonassen flashes the form that enables him to beat Taufik Hidayat yesterday

Asuncions play vital role for Asia team

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' REPRESENTATIVE TO Team Asia, siblings Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion, will play a pivotal role going against a Danish pair in today's last day of the MVP Cup 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Asuncions will take on mixed doubles world No. 10 Tomas Laybourn and Kamilla Rytter-Juhl on a day which stakes three points to every match winner.

"There is a pressure on us because Asia's fate could depend on us," said Kennevic who, along with her sister, enjoy the highest rankings in their career at 21st from 52nd.

They are not actually that new to the situation. Last year, they lost to All-England champs Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms as Europe took a 7-5 lead with just two singles left. Fortunately, Chinese stars Lin Dan and Zhang Ning bailed the region out by hacking out victories in the end game.

The Asuncions have faced the Danish pair only once, yielding the match. It happened so long ago they could not remember the score.

"We will just try to win points and concentrate on each rally," said Kennevic. "We won't think of winning right away because that could either make us happy or sad depending on the outcome. It's better if we set a goal and try to achieve that, like win as many rallies as possible."

Came out hot

Last year, the RP duo came out hot, flustering Robertson and Emms, seeing action this year in the women's doubles, with a fast-paced game that electrified the crowd and forced a rousing 15-12 first set victory.

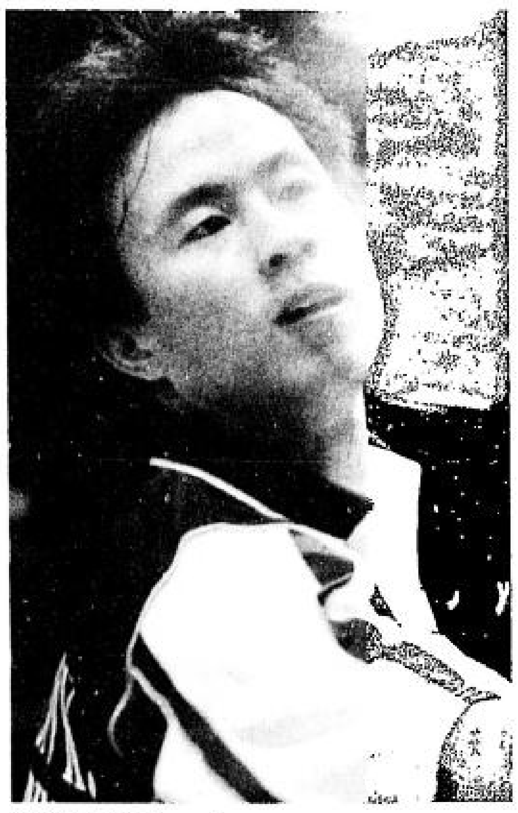
"We were really inspired by the crowd's enthusiastic support," said the Asuncions, who are coming from tournament victories in New Zealand and Australia last month.

But the English tandem were just too proud to give the match away and hacked out a 17-14 tiebreak in the second set, sapping the locals' spirits to take the match at 15-1.

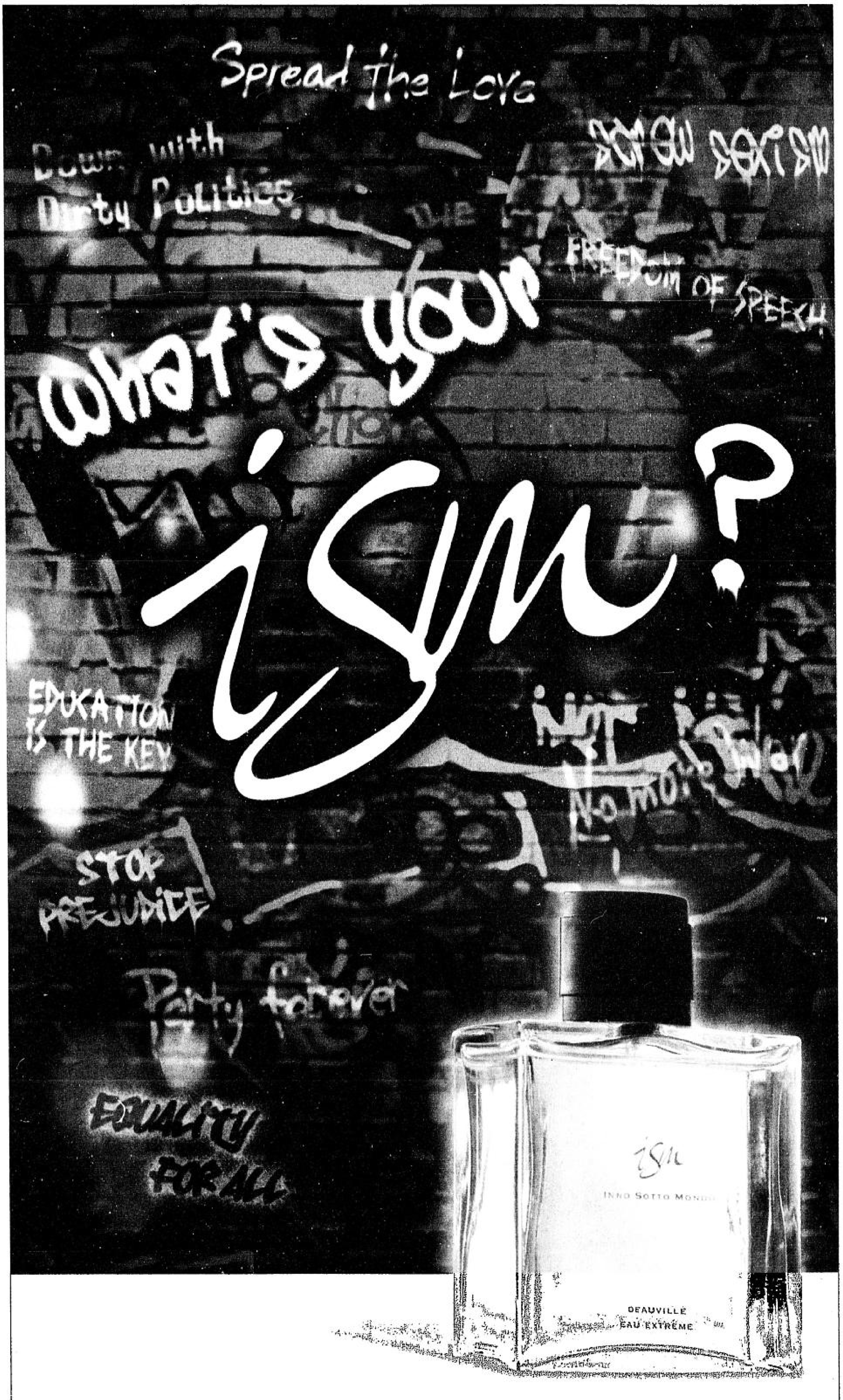
"We really hope the crowd will show up again to cheer us on," said Kennie, who skipped a big tournament this month to concentrate on the MVP Cup 2 preparation.

In fact, their coach-father Nelson has flown in a Korean team to help them train. Four Korean shuttlers with world rankings have been providing the siblings lessons in world-class competitions.

The Asuncions also got valuable tips from Indonesian aces for the inaugural MVP Cup.



KENNEVIC Asuncion



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MADE IN FRANCE

NBC finals: Pagadian battles Ozamiz cagers

PAGADIAN CITY—EXPANSION TEAM Pagadian found its range in time to subdue Spring Cooking Oil-Parafiaque, 98-95, Friday and arrange an all-south national finals in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC basketball championship here

Playing catch-up most of the time, Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers surged ahead in the fourth quarter behind Bong Marata and Mike Orquillas to earn a shot at defending champion Ozamiz Cotta in the best-of-three finals starting tomorrow.

Nani Epondulan exploded for 24 points and helped the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana control the game in the early going. But Epondulan failed to deliver at crunch time.

"This is the fruit of our hard work," said Pagadian coach Segundo "Bong" Dela Cruz. "Despite trailing, my boys did not give up. We'll now have to think of Ozamiz."

The Explorers lost, 75-82, in the opener, but leveled the series Thursday and clinched the second finals seat Friday before their ecstatic hometown crowd.

The absence of Rodel Manuel and injured Gilbert Neo hurt Spring-Paranaque in the series sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Fightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

The Cooking Oil Masters led 58-46 at the turn and were still ahead 73-69 going into the final quarter. But Marata, Orquillas and Naron ignited a fierce rally that helped the Explorers turn the game around.

Marata finished with 22 points, while Orquillas, Lou Gatumbato and Naron added 18, 16 and 14, respectively.

The scores:

Pagadian (98)—Marata 22, Orquillas 18, Gatumbato 16, Naron 14, Sinco 7, Daja 6, Salud 6, Ayuk 3, Cortez 0, Unabia 0, Omandam 0, Pamaran 0

Paranaque (95)—Epondulan 24, Capobres 15, rodriguez 13, Yambao 10, Morante 8, Reyes 7, Yee 5, Ortiguera 4, Bamson 4, Cuenca 3, De Castro 2, Tiongco 0

Quarters: 23-28, 46-58, 69-73,98-85

RP-Air21 takes on Singapore in opener

GAMES TUESDAY
(Hong Kong Coliseum)
2 p.m. -- RP-Air 21 vs Singapore
3:30 p.m. -- Malaysia vs Thailand
6 p.m. -- Opening ceremony
7 p.m. -- USA vs Japan
8:30 p.m. -- Hong Kong vs China

HONG KONG—TEAM RP-AIR 21 WILL BE taking on Singapore in the opener of the 2005 Super Kung Sheung international invitational basketball championship at the Hong Kong Coliseum on Tuesday.

Brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo and slam dunk champion KG Canaleta will power the Filipino dribblers described as ready and confident by team manager Lito Alvarez.

The Filipinos and the Singaporeans take the floor at 2 p.m. in one of four matches kicking off hostilities in the tough eight-team tournament organized by the Hong Kong Basketball Association.

Other opening-day matches will pit SEA Games champion Malaysia against Thailand at 3:30 p.m., United States against Japan at 7 p.m. and Hong Kong against China at 8:30 p.m.

The hour-long opening ceremonies will be held starting at 6 p.m.

"Based on early reports, this year's competition will be a lot tougher, but we're confident," said Alvarez. "We expect the team to do better and improve our third-place finish behind Hong Kong and the Los Angeles-based American-Chinese Selection last year," said Alvarez.

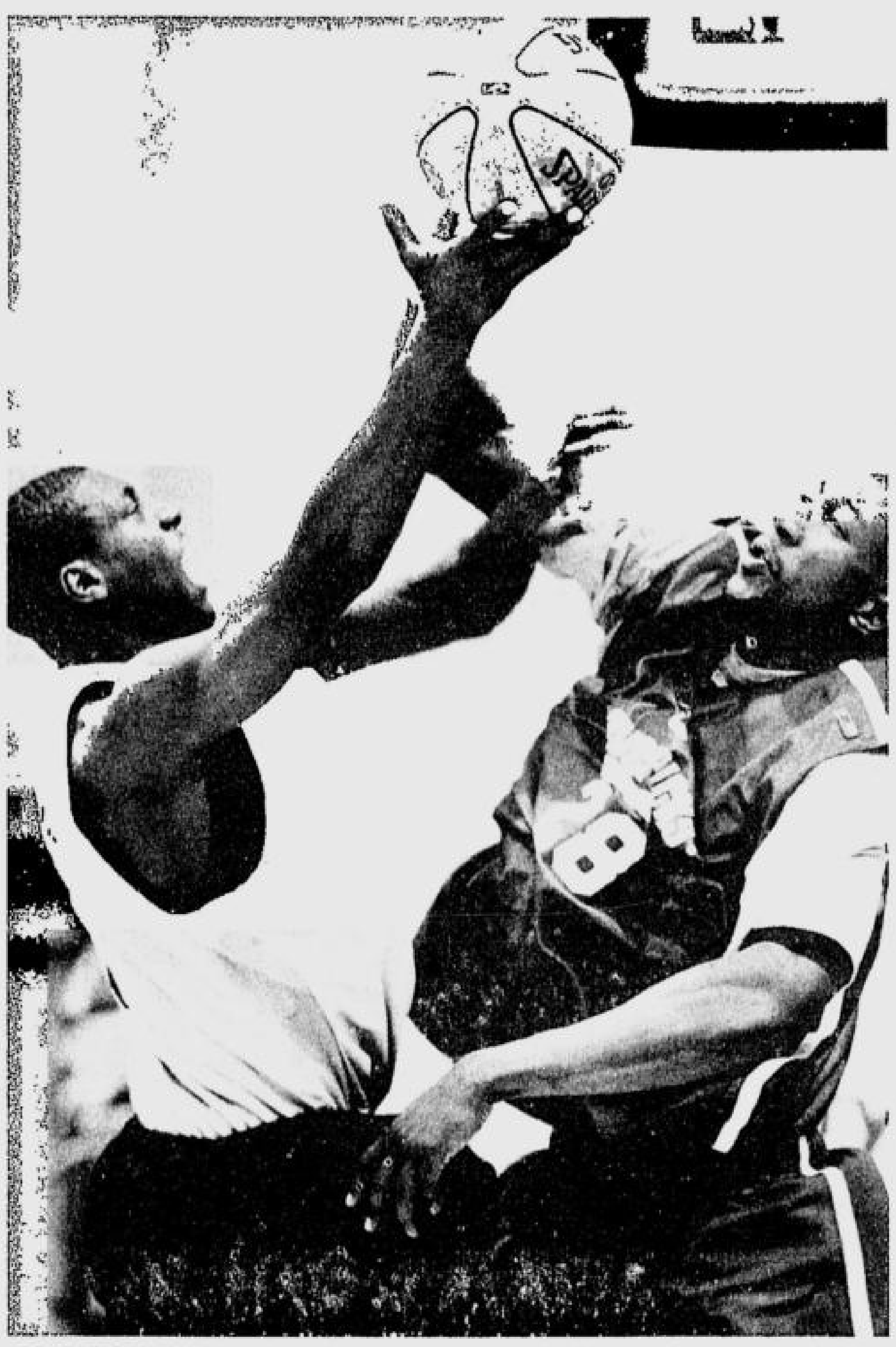
Alvarez, who tapped Bo Perasol and Johny Tam to handle the team this year, said Hong Kong and United States remain as the country's biggest rivals in the tournament.

The top two teams in each group will advance to the crossover semis, with the winners disputing the tittle in a winner-take-all encounter.

The groupings:

Group A -- Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Thailand.

Group B -- Philippines, United States, Japan, Singapore.



SUMMER LEAGUE: San Antonio Spurs' Ian Mahinmi, of France, shoots against Dallas Mavericks' D.J. Mbenga (28), of Congo, during the Rocky Mountain Review summer league basketball game hosted by the Utah Jazz on Friday in Taylorsville, Utah. AP

Warriors turn back Tamaraws

By Jasmine W. Payo

AN ILLNESS-STRUCK UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST WARRIORS FOUND enough heroes in the second half to get them by. By the time the final buzzer sounded, it was the Far Eastern U Tamaraws turn to feel sick.

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—NU vs Adamson (Seniors)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Seniors)

Sparked by skipper Bonbon Custodio after the break, the Warriors outlasted the Tamaraws in overtime, 92-84, to achieve a two-fold task in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

UE not only took the early lead in the tournament with a 2-0 card, it also validated its status as favorite by handing FEU a bad start in its title-retention bid.

All that despite having five key players coming from sickbay with illnesses ranging from bum stomach to fever.

"I was worried," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren. "In the first half, we were so tentative because in the last few days some of my players were unable to practice. And when FEU employed a trap (defense), the players panicked. "

The five players included Custodio, sophomore James Martinez, Marcy Arellano, Elmer Espiritu and Kelvin Gregorio.

Martinez also played a clutch role in the Warriors' comeback, knocking in 12 of his 16 points from beyond the arc to provide UE with much-needed outside threat.

Mark Borboran also came through for the Warriors, blocking a potential game-winning basket by FEU's Marnel Baracael at the end of regulation and then preserving his heroics by knocking in five of his 15 points in the extra period.

But it was Custodio who took the lead in rallying the Warriors, hitting 11 of his 18 markers in the third period after coming off a scoreless first half where he watched his team trail, 19-33, and lose a lot of the swagger and confidence it showed in an opening-day win against the Adamson Falcons.

In the extra period, Borboran and Custodio keyed an 8-0 burst to put the Warriors on top for good, 87-79, with only 2:19 remaining.

Custodio pumped in eight of the Warriors' first 13 points in the third period to whittle the deficit, 45-48, after trailing, 32-40, at halftime.

Triples by Martinez sustained that rally and the Warriors actually took the lead, 60-59, 33 seconds before the end of the third period.

But a spate of errors kept UE from finishing off FEU in regulation.

The Warriors had a four-point spread going into the final minute but the Tamaraws managed to knot the count with an Alfred Gerilla basket and a pair of free throws by RB Mangahas in the last 35 ticks that sandwiched a Custodio turnover.

Earlier, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets drubbed the Adamson Baby Falcons, 85-57, to take the solo 2-0 lead in junior play.

The UP Junior Maroons escaped with a 78-76 decision over the UST Tiger Cubs to claim their first victory.

In the the third game, the UE Pages recovered from an opening-day loss with a 97-73 triumph over the NU Bullpups.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 85—Austria 19, Gonzaga 11, Rivera 10, Katipunan 10, Dumrique 10, Gamboa 8, Tiognson 4, Aportadera 4, Balmaceda 3, Golla 2, Gamboa 2, Enriquez 2, Valera 0, Esquivel 0.

ADAMSON 57—Acibar 19, Albay 10, Olalla 5, Godito 5, Vitug 3, Martinez 3, Cano 3, Valerio 2, Ceguerra 2, Tadeo 0, Santos 0, Borja 0, Alero 0.

Quarters: 20-8, 38-20, 61-41, 85-57

Second Game (Jrs)

UP 78—Bautista 21, Marata 14, Sanchez 13, Tolentino 12, Espritu 12, Buenaventura 3, Isip 2, Lazo 1, Merioles 0, Gamad 0, Cruz 0.

UST 76—Sarsonas 17, Reyes 14, Laconico 11, Banquicio 8, Buendia 7, Aquino 6, Cunanan 6, Francisco 3, Perez 2, Ledesma 2.

Quarters: 20-19, 44-44, 59-58, 78-76

Third Game (Jrs)

UE 97—Duran 24, Santos 22, Villegas 18, Crisostomo 10, Monce 9, Runez 6, Del Rosario 4, Borgonia 4, Amanon 0, San Juan 0, Nicolas 0, Caparas 0, Chua 0.

NU 73—Berry 17, K. Batac 15, Tesoro 14, Manalac 9, Jimenez 6, C. Guzman 5, P. Batac 5, P. Guzman 2, Magat 0.

Quarters: 25-18, 46-36, 73-48, 97-73

Fourth Game (Srs)

UE 92—Custodio 18, Martinez 16, Borboran 15, Gregorio 13, Labagala 10, Arellano 9, Thiele 5, Espiritu 4, Canizares 2, Lingganay 0, Llagas 0, Bandaying 0.

FEU 84—Jo. Villanueva 18, Gerilla 14, Fernandez 14, Chan 10, Adolfo 9, Mangahas 8, Barcellano 6, Baracael 4, Reyes 1, Viniuan 0, Afable 0, Je. Villanueva 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 14-23, 32-40, 60-59, 79-79, 92-84 (OT)

Xavier School, Coach E offer cage clinics

XAVIER IS THE SECOND SCHOOL TO PARTner with the Coach E Basketball School, offering 16 sessions starting on July 31 at the Xavier Sports Center in San Juan.

And as a teaser to the Coach E approach in basketball training, International Basketball Academy president Xavy Nunag yesterday said free clinics will be held on July 24 (3:30 p.m.) for grade school students and July 27 (4 p.m.) for high school students at Xavier.

This term will officially start with the San Beda Alabang classes opening on July 25. Complete 16-sessions will be held at the Zone in Makati on July 26 and Clubsixfifty in Libis on July 28.

Call 631-1195 (Mylene) for details. Inquiries are also welcome at iba@yahoo.com and www.ibaphil.net. Emailed reservations must contain the name, age and t-shirt size of the students in the school backed by Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Burlington, Accel and Brothers Burger.

Pacquiao-Morales III a struggle against irrelevance

COMMENTARY

Hermie Rivera

MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO AND Erik "El Terrible" Morales reprise their previous hostile meetings with a compelling year-end thriller certain to usher in a new set of boxing legends.

November 18th is the date of the final installment of this stirring Pacquiao-Morales trilogy with the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas picked once more as the fight site—a roped-off hell where once the daring duo figured in a remarkable slugfest.

Manny and Erik split their first two duels but with the way the Pacman drubbed the Mexicano in their last session, and the severe beating he dealt another Mexicano, Oscar Larios at the Araneta Coliseum, he is the slight favorite in this long-awaited rubber bout.

Pacquiao has been on a tear lately while Morales has been inactive since he last faced the GenSan idol in a sensational 'give-and-take' match that ended in a tenth round knockout of the Tijuana native.

The same sustained action will be offered by both warriors when they conclude their three-fight setto with Manny expected to start early in order to surprise a notoriously late-going Erik.

Remember how it was when Pacquiao connected with his vigorous punches in that January melee? Morales, after getting nailed with perfectly timed counters, staggered to an impromptu cha-cha with his legs moving independently from his other body parts.

Sensing he had his man treed, Pacquiao cut loose with hard blows to send his fans roaring at the tenth round manhandling of the three-time champ, who had never been stopped during his storied reign .

So, it's a tough job ahead for Erik as he tries to subdue Manny with his iron-fists, encased in his preferred 'made in Japan' gloves—a move that'll surely warm the cockles of Manny's huge fighting heart 'ika nga.

With four months to go before this ardently awaited rematch, the question being asked by many: Can the irrepressible Manny repeat over a determined and focused Erik?

Can Manny—being a devious practitioner of this manly art—score another scintillating kayo?

Great fighters like Pacquiao are insidious once they go for the kill. But can he con Morales into watching out for his left—only to run smack into a mind-boggling right, as what happened in their bloody rematch?

You bet he will.

The final pairing of arguably the best super-featherweights in the universe is an extraordinary twelve-rounder which has all marks of a brutal brawl among carnassial-toothed cats in a back alley.

The winner gets to be richer—but of course. Needless to say, the loser slips into irrelevance.

Enriquez shines in Vietnam shootfest

HANOI, VIETNAM—SEEING ACTION FOR the first time, Enrique Leandro Enriquez showed nerves of steel against older opponents to bag the bronze medal in the 30th Southeast Asia Shoting Championship held July 2 to 9 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The 14-year-old Enriquez, a student of British School Manila, tallied an impressive 112/125 plus 18 in the Olympic men's skeet event despite the scorching heat and humidity.

Enriquez, the youngest competitor, had a good showing throughout the two-day elimination rounds and was in fact the co-leader with a Thai going into the final round.

But the lack of international exposure caught up with Enriquez in the finals as he bowed to the more experienced Thailand and Vietnam shooters who won the gold and silver, respectively.

Enriquez then combined with Clifford Lichaytoo and Andrew to win another bronze medal in the skeet team event.

Meanwhile, lady shooter Iryne Garcia, who recently qualified for the 2006 Qatar Asian Games, bagged the silver medal in the ladies individual Olympic trap event with a 57/75+19 in the single barrel final round.

The trio of Philippine ladies trap team, Iryne Garcia, Gay Corral and Anna Maria Gana managed to bring home the silver medal in the team event.

Earlier in the week, Carlos Carag brought home the bronze medal in the men's individual Olympic trap event with a 104/125+21 effort. Carag then joined hands with Andrew Poblete and Raul Ramon Arambulo to beat Singapore for the silver at the end of the two-day men's Olympic trap team event.

Dr. Adel Samson, Sherwin Topacio and Aristotle Viray also shot for Olympic MQS (Olympic Minimum Qualifying Score) for the men's trap event and completed the roster of participants for Team Philippines.

ENRIQUE Leandro Enriquez relaxes before the finals

RODRIGUEZ

LEGASPI

ARDINA

RP jungolf regains world's respect with 3-gold output

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—AT SUCH TENDER age, the three Filipino kids who crowned themselves champions of the just-concluded Callaway Junior World competitions here have made big sacrifices to pursue a mission of victory.

Leaving school is foremost.

While Cyna Rodriguez and Mia Legaspi are now on home study, Dottie Ardina have hardly read her books this year, owing to the long hours of training for their tournaments in the United States.

Legaspi, winner of the Class E (7-8 years) division, won't be wearing her uniforms, carrying the usually heavy backpacks or taking the early morning ride on the school bus with classmates at all.

She does the school stuff nowhere but home and has to consider the golf course her big school.

The whole of last summer, Mia's family stayed in a rented home inside the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite, with her father Norman devising a military-style training program for Mia and sister Ma-an that makes a lot of room and time for golf, golf and nothing but golf.

"We talked about it and since we all wanted something to happen with their games, golf became their summer vacation," said the elder Legaspi, who capped his military career by serving as chief of staff to former president Fidel Ramos.

It took just a few months of serious golf for someone so young like Mia, with her dad and coach Balty Baltazar, to bring home her first major trophy, and a Junior World crystal trophy at that.

Already an extremely talented golfer, Ardina's exposure to several high-caliber stints around Southeast Asia as a member of the ICSTI pool where he gets guidance from swing guru Bong Lopez boosted her stock no end.

Ardina and Rodriguez had to spend summer living in a home away from home.

They were quartered 24/7 and for six days a week with regular rounds at the Country Club with the rest of the training pool.

For Ardina and Rodriguez to be kept away from their doting parents, much more being denied of time with friends at the mall or sleepovers was a bittersweet experience.

But the end result was, they even got better as golfers. Ardina picked up a second Junior World crown in five years and Rodriguez also her first after three tries.

The triple triumph by the three Filipino girls in a world-scale competition not only sent shock waves at the San Diego courses but brings to focus anew the program of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines which has survived the test of time.

"It's really an indication that the simple activities we make out of the sponsorships we're given produce big results like world titles," said Jungolf chair Amalia Montecillo.

Montecillo was ecstatic when she heard of the big news on Thursday morning, saying her prayers for RP jungolf to experience another big year of multiple titles "was finally heard."

Yes, Philippine jungolf has regained its respect in the world scene, thanks to three girls of spice.

Notes. Debbie de Villa tied for 24th in the girls Class A won by Japanese Mika Miyazato with a 75-301 while Tonton Asistio (76-303) shared 38th in boys play where Matthew Giles of Australia won by eight strokes. The Philippines had the second most wins with three, one behind the United States which had four.

Bacolod hosting ASEAN football

THE PHILIPPINES WILL TRY TO barge into the 2007 ASEAN Football Championship when it hosts a qualifying round in Bacolod City from Nov. 12-20.

The Filipinos will be competing against squads from Laos, Cambodia, Brunei and Timor Leste for the two slots still available for the sixth edition of the biennial event, formerly known as the Tiger Cup, at the Panaad and Paglaum Stadiums.

Already qualified for the tournament proper are three-time champion Thailand, two-time winner Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia and Vietnam.

The qualifier is a joint undertaking of the Philippine Football Federation headed by Johnny Romualdez and the Negros Occidental Football Association led by its president Representative Charlie Cojuangco.

It will be a tough mission for the Filipinos, ranked 192 by the international football federation (Fifa), as they will be up against the higher-rated Laotians (182), Cambodians, (183), Bruneians (178) and the unranked Timoresians, an associate member of the Fifa.

The Philippines battles Laos in the Nov. 12 opening match, meets Timor Leste on Nov. 14, tackles Cambodia on Nov. 18 and faces Brunei on Nov. 20.

The Philippines has won only once in all its outings in the Tiger Cup. That distinction goes to current national coach Aris Caslib, who steered the Nationals to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Timor Leste in the 2004 edition held in Malaysia.

Other coaches who handled the Philippines were Noel Casilao/Hans Smit in 1996, Juan Cutillas in 1998 and 2000 and Sugao Kambe in 2002.

The point system will determine the two qualifiers for the championship round to be held either in Thailand or Singapore in January.

Fil-Am could turn out to be PBA draft's steal

A 27-YEAR-OLD FIL-AM COULD very well be the sleeper of this year's PBA rookie draft, if his high school records are to be used as basis.

Player agent Charlie Dy said Alexander Davin, a 5-foot-11 playmaker who beat the deadline for the Aug. 20 draft at Market! Market! could end up the surprise of the draft.

"He's supposed to be good but we have to see him yet in rookie camp," said Dy.

The reason for his optimism lies in the high school records furnished by the player.

Dy said the documents show that Davin studied at Tappan Zee High School in New York, where he reportedly still holds school records for steals, assists and 3-pointers. He was named all-league, all-county and all-state.

Davin attended Dominican College where he was included in the honorable mention all-freshmen team. He played early this year in Norway where he led his team in scoring, assists, steals and won the Norwegian championships.

"He really dreams of playing in the PBA," said Dy, who revealed that Davin has another special reason for applying for the draft.

"He wants to eventually meet his mom, whom he has never seen since she left him to his dad," Dy revealed. Davin was born in Zambales but was adopted when he was 8 years old by his paternal aunt, who is married to an American.

SPORTSWATCH

Fistorama features Tejares-Vicera bout

FISTORAMA features this afternoon the bout between flyweights Rodel Tejares and Brian Vicera. It is supported by a 4-round encounter between amateurs Fernando Polsotin and Marcos Niones. The fights were held recently at the Salceda Gymnasium in Polangui, Albay. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The event will be aired on RPN-9 starting at 3:30 p.m. Golf Power Plus, featuring the elimination match between College of Saint Benilde 3 and World Citi College Team 4 in the PCSO's Women Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge, airs at 3 p.m.

Derby champs join SJC Rambulan

BACKYARD breeders Cesar Marquez, Eric Canonizado and Ed San Luis of Laguna signed up yesterday for the P3.5M Rambulan Sa San Juan 5-cock derby slated at San Juan Coliseum on July 17, 19, 21, 24, 26 and 29. The three members of the United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA) bagged the championship of "Hatawan Sa Tag-Ulan 6-cock derby" last Tuesday using the entry name KKK. According to Ronnie Lacsina, one of the promoters, more than 300 entries will participate in this six-day super event. A guaranteed prize of P3.5 million will be at stake for an entry fee of P8,800. Participants competing on Monday's opening round must submit their entries today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and may call 725-6563, 725-5369 and 0917-8041691 (Ronnie).

P1M at stake in Roligon cockfest

ANOTHER blockbuster cockfest, the Motorcycle Festival 4-cock derby, unfolds at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Aug. 1, 3 and 5 with P1 million in guaranteed prize. Entry fee is P6,600. Backed by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone, the event will be hosted anew by Rolly Ligon. The fastest win champions during the elimination rounds on Aug. 1 and 3 will get one brand new scooter each. Then on Aug. 5, the fastest win champion will drive home a brand new Honda 4 Stroke XR while the second fastest win champion will get a Honda XRM Dual Sports. For details, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812. Meanwhile, partners Abraham Bernales, Tiling Capitan and Mario Gujelde will host a 3-cock derby with P30,000 at stake for an entry fee of P4,400.

RP'S Valerio shares 29th place

FILIPINO Axel John Valerio defeated host bet Ali Sheikha in the ninth and final round to finish in a tie for 29th to 42nd places in the recent of 5th Dubai Juniors Chess Championship 2006 dubbed as Shiekh Maktoum Ben Hamdan Cup at the Dubai Chess & Culture Club in United Arab Emirates. Valerio notch 5.5 points on five wins, one draw and four loses and landed at 39th places after the tie break points was applied. However, younger sisters Anita Jasmin and Canssa Joe Valerio yielded to WFM Abdulaziz Eman and Al-Mallahi Dawood, also from UAE, respectively. Anita Jasmin got stuck at 5.0 points for 56th place while Canssa Joe remained at 3.0 points for 119th places. IM Eltaj Safarli of Azerbaijan stopped erstwhile co-leader Kilpaltrick Callum of England in the final match to score 8.0 points and take the title. Fide Master Narayanan Srinath of India finished second with 7.5 points.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Corporate & Celebrity Cup

BADMINTON TILT: The 2006 Sportshouse-Dunlop Corporate and Celebrity Cup invitational badminton championships will be held July 17-23 at Club 650 Libis and SM Megamall. The tournament is organized by Olympian Weena Lim. (From left) Chester Cordero, Hazel Soriaga, Randy Santiago, Cecile Reyes, Lim, Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, Marky Dy and Mars Chua during the formal launching of the event at Dencio's at Metrowalk in Pasig.

Bautista: Knight in shining armor

BAUTISTA: Go-to-guy

BOYET BAUTISTA HAS PROVEN HOW good he is, helping Letran win two championships in the past three years.

But this time, as the Knights gun for back-to-back titles, the pressure is even bigger for the 5-foot-7 playmaker in the 82nd National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball tournament.

With the departure of six veterans from last year's champion team, Bautista is teaming up this time with a group of reserves and rookies. So far, he's been consistent producing numbers expected of him while directing the Knight's offense with aplomb.

Letran have won its first four games, the last over PCU, which it downed in the 2005 Finals (2-1).

Bautista torched the Dolphins with 30 points, including four pressure-packed free throws that kept PCU at bay. He also shot 7-of-13 triples.

His impressive showing earned him NCAA Press Corps Player of the Week honors.

"May pressure din talaga, hindi naman mawawala 'yun eh, palaging nand'yan. Kailangan lang palaging focus sa game," said Bautista, who helped his alma mater win NCAA championships in 2003 and 2005, where he was named Finals MVP.

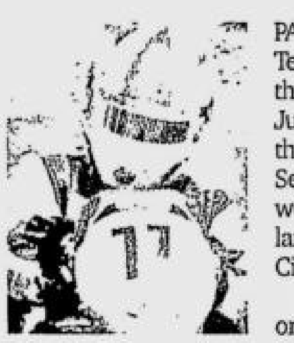
Except for Aaron Aban, who like Bautista is in his final season and has played crucial role in the two championships, the other Knights are either bench warmers a year ago or newcomers.

However, Letran mentor Louie Alas is confident on the leadership capabilities of his cerebral guard, who is averaging 19.5 points, 5.5 rebounds and three assists in four games.

"Hindi ka kakabahan sa crunch time kasi alam mo na nand'yan si Boyet," said Alas. "He can create situation for himself, as well as for his teammates. He's the kind of player who makes his teammates look good."

From killer crossover, dazzling between the legs move, nifty passes, daredevil drives to the basket, to long range bombs, he can do it all. So when Bautista plays, don't blink, it might be for the highlight reels.

Rodriguez tops Kart-Trak meet



RODRIGUEZ

PACO RODRIGUEZ OF Team CRG trounced the opposition in the Junior Rok category of the Shell Super Karting Series fifth leg held last weekend at the Boomland Kart-Trak in Pasay City.

Hampered by inferior wet tires during the time trial and qualifying race, which were run under pouring rain, the 12-year-old karter started at the back of the grid. During the pre-final, Rodriguez kept his composure and clawed his way up the field to finish first.

Rodriguez was meted a P500 fine and a three-second penalty for accidentally colliding with Javi Benitez who was meted the same fine. Despite the time penalty, Rodriguez managed to win owing to a 7-second gap that he had at the checkered flag and set the best lap time of 30.1 seconds.

During the final, Rodriguez exhibited smoothness and precision to post the convincing win over a field composed of eventual second placer Juha Turalba, third placer Benitez, Roby Benito and John Alvarez.

Rodriguez, supported by Auto Prominence, Super Shuttle Ferry, Globe Telecom, X3MFX Studios and PSL Karting.com, will see action in the next leg of the series on Aug. 12 and 13 at the Enchanted Kingdom.

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Special Edition eyes Horseman's Cup

By Musong R. Castillo

SPECIAL EDITION, A FILLY GIFTED WITH A magnificent finishing kick, will try to win her second straight Triple Crown leg when the final installment of the 2006 series—the Horseman's Cup—is flagged off at the Santa Ana Park in Makati City today.

Six other chargers are entered in the 2,050-meter, P2 million classic, including the revved-up Don Exequiel, the first leg winner, who is itching for some payback.

Special Edition will be sent off as the overwhelming first choice considering how she thundered back from the tail of the pack last month to win the JV Ongpin Cup on the same track.

It validated her resurgence as the best in the land, and the rest of the field better think of ways to hold her back at 5:25 p.m.

Dominador Borbe partners Special Edition again, while Antonio Alcasid handles Don Exequiel, the handsome colt coming from the overpowering stables of Hermie Esguerra.

Jet Sutter, under Jeff Zarate, has shown a lot of promise and could be another entry to contend with like Batong Silyar, a versatile colt who has not stopped campaigning in regular races to get in shape for this event.

Jonathan B. Hernandez steers Million Dollar, the speed demon colt who set the pace in each of the first two legs only to finish out of the money each time.

Dixie The Younger, once touted as a bright Triple Crown hope, and Mr. Victory round out the compact seven-horse field.

Several horseowners, meanwhile, expressed disappointment at how the information campaign for the Hopeful Stakes, to be run later at around 7 p.m. was handled.

Only four chargers, led by Triple Crown veteran Tigres in Action, will be slugging it out for the P360,000 top prize with the big stables unaware of Fernando M. Raquel Jr. handles Tigres In Action, a 3-year-old bay filly, who will set off as the slight pick against the likes of Smarty Pants, Lucky Joe and Manhattan in the 1,800-meter race.

Don Exequiel won the Horseman's Cup—the first leg—last May at the San Lazaro Leisure Park by holding off a charging cavalry that included Special Edition.

Handled beautifully by Borbe and with Don Exequiel not getting to run a pace to his liking, Special Edition found the pacesetters easy pickings in the second leg.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Brazen Truth (8), Wing-Away (3), Wynona Raider (6), Kalashnikov (7)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Venture (3), Dona Nene (6), Lightning Strike (5), Prince Aidan (1)

Race 3—(Pent/Qrt/Tri)—Diamond Sky (4), Samahan (5), West Swinger (6), Assunta De Rio/Ikaw Lamang (9), Cunning Eagle (1)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Casanova (7), Speed Bullet (5), Rockwell/Sunline (8), Sutter's Royal (3)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Monalisa (4), Angel of Light (5), District Three (6), Red Hot Martini (2)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Pacman (3), Kryptonite (4), Iforanal (6), Speed Terror (8), Military Might (5)

Race 7—(Qrt/TRI)—Special Edition (7), Jet Sutter (2), Dixie The Younger (6), Don Exequiel (3)

Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Terravalac (3), Powerhouse (1), King Yoli (8), West 'N Wild (7), Portfolio Dividend/Ravishing Raffy (4)

Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Reason to Believe (2), Yao Man (7), Speed Admiral (10), Andorra (9, Shining Lance (4))

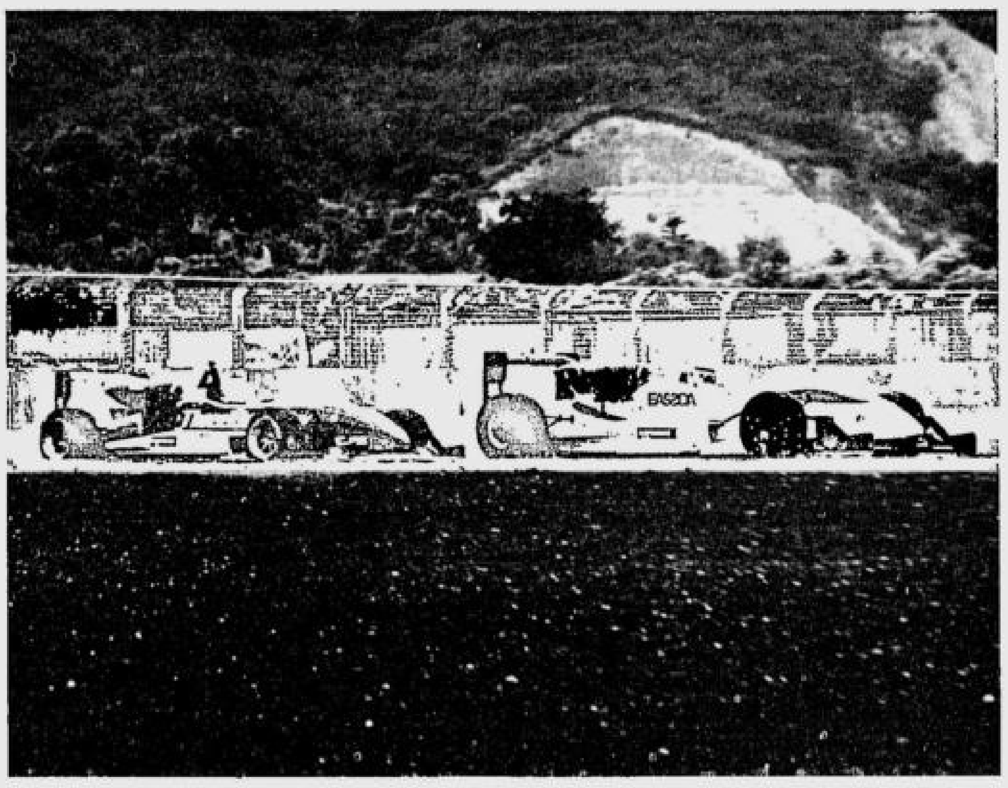
Race 10—()—Manhattan (4), Lucky Joe (3)

Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—My Lucky One (2), Song Bird (4), Sir Benjo (8), Dynamic Jason (6)

Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Jay Nicole (1), Striking Thunder (6), Coolmore (4), Gold Fever (5)

Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Lovable Trisha/Gutsy (7), Reign of Fire (8), Top Quest (11), Playing Cool (1), Empire Lady (12), Collective Dreams (2)

Irish rules AF3 races, challenges Sy for lead



ALI JACKSON of Ireland overtakes James Winslow of Great Britain in lap 8 of Race 7.

GUANGDONG—IRISHMAN ALI JACKSON swept Rounds 6 and 7 Saturday as Filipino stars Tyson Sy and Dado Peña fell prey to bad luck and inexperience in wet driving conditions in the Asian Formula Three series at the Zhuhai International Circuit here.

The 17-year-old Jackson, the youngest driver to win a round in the circuit when he topped Round 5 here last month, showed a big crowd what daring and steely nerves could do as he stormed to a pair of first-place finishes worth 40 points, in the process moving up to second overall in the drivers' standings, just three behind Sy.

Briton James Winslow, driving a car with a new chassis, came all the way from the back of the grid in Round 6 to salvage runner-up honors and then saw his bid for a rousing win in the next round thwarted by a daring maneuver put on by Jackson of Aran Racing in the 8th lap, when the Irishman grabbed the lead for good going into a corner.

Another Briton, Dillon Battistini, finished third in Round 6, losing second to Fujitsi Racing with Threebond teammate Winslow when he drove into the grass just a kilometer from the finish line. He was later nosed out for third by Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Aran Racing at the checkered flag in the next race.

Peña, of Team Goddard, topped the qualifying for Round 7 earlier in the morning but a team oversight cost him dearly in Round 6 held at noon. Team mechanics failed to replace the battery of his Dallara 304 after the qualifying run and it conked out after the warm-up lap for Round 6, leaving his crew no recourse but to push him back to the pit.

He rejoined Round 6 from the pit but then failed to put on the brakes early enough coming out of a turn in lap 2 and drove into the grass. After trying vainly to start his engine, he walked back to the pit in disgust.

The steady drizzle continued into Round 7 held three hours later with Pena occupying the No. 1 spot on the grid and his problem with the car's battery fixed. But a faulty clutch left him running second behind Winslow at the start and he was bumped from behind by fellow Filipino Roland Hermoso going into the first turn, yanking him out of the race for good.

"We were able to fix the battery problem but encountered a new problem-with the clutch-at the start. Despite a bad start, Dado was in there but he was hit from behind by Roland who missed his braking," explained Team Goddard principal Mark Goddard. "We just hope the bad luck will end tomorrow," Goddard added, referring to Rounds 8 and 9 Sunday.

Sy continued to struggle with his rebuilt Dallara 304, and like Peña failed to finish in Round 6, being forced into the gravel in lap eight after a futile try to pass Bagoes Hermanto of Indonesia. The Speedtech Asia lead driver later finished fifth in the next round, coaxing what he can from his engine and earning eight precious points, just enough to keep him ahead in the overall standings.

Despite his misfortune, Battistini earned 22 points for 88 overall but relinquished second overall to the surging Jackson. Winslow amassed 30 points and moved up from fifth to fourth with 72, leaving Pena, previously tied with Jackson for third, in fifth with 52 points.

"Fifth is better than getting zero," said Sy. "We have to make a fight of it up the last race (in Batangas). We still can't pinpoint the problem with my car. I was off pace."

Only seven out of 13 starters finished Round 7, and 10 survived the earlier race. Used to driving in the rain, the Europeans gamely negotiated every turn and curve at the 4.3-kilometer track while the rest either spun out or hit the gravel after speeding through wet portions of the track.

Bata, Django don RP colors in World Cup

REYES

BUSTAMANTE

FILIPINO CUE MASTERS EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante will carry the Philippine colors in the inaugural of PartyPoker.com World Cup of Pool on Aug.22 to 27 at the The Newport Centre, Newport, SouthWales.

Reyes and Bustamante, protegé of sportsman patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo, are also scheduled to play in the 2006 SMB six-man exhibition leg starting today in Guangzhou, China.

They will also spearhead the strong 13-man Philippine contingent in the $ 2-million 2006 International Pool Tour grand finale on July 23-30 at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"It's a great honor for Reyes and Bustamante to be invited to represent the Philippines in the World Cup of Pool," said Puat. "I hope that they will do well in this event and other international tournaments.

A total of 32 countries, each represented by two players, will be taking part. The matches will be played on a straight knockout basis- five rounds of matches on one TV table. All matches are scotch doubles with alternate break.

At stake is a total pot prize of $250,000, with the champion receiving $60,000. The runner-up gets 30,000, while the losing semifinalists will take home $16,000 each.

The race-to-9 format will be used in the last 32, last 16 and last 8 while the race-to-11 format will be adapted in the semifinal round. The finals will be a race-to-13 affair.

Europe will be parading 16 countries, including Croatia, Czech Republic, England A, England B, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and Wales.

The Philippines will be leading the charge of 10 Asian nations that also include India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The United States and Canada will represent the Americas while the Rest of the World is composed of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and United Arab Emirates.

Marlon Bernardino

Europe cuts Asia edge

From page A23

climbing in the rankings.

"I was more relaxed that I normally am out there," Jonassen added, knowing the Indon to be less than 100 percent. "But every time I stand on the court, I always fancy that I will win."

It was the first victory by Jonassen in five career matches against Hidayat, and it proved a big one for Europe, which got another two points from Emms-Kellogg after doing short work of the Saralee Thungthongkam-Sathinee Chankrachangwong team later.

The Euro pair ranked fourth in the world jumped out hard and was never threatened in a 21-8, 21-15 victory as Emms and Kellogg, knowing the challenge to be inferior, played to the Araneta Coliseum crowd more.

Hong Kong-China's Wang Chen put up another two points for Asia when she tripped the Netherlands' Mia Audina Tjiptawan, 13-21, 21-14, 21-12, for a 5-0 count.

Asia, looking to win this Ryder Cup-style event for the second straight year, had swept all three matches in the first day with Chinese aces Lin Dan and Zhang Ning posting contrasting wins against separate foes.

But it proved to be Asia's last hurrah for the day as Jonassen slugged it out tooth-and-nail with Hidayat before shutting the Indon down when it truly mattered.

The 32-year-old Jonassen strung up nine points from 5-4 in the third set, scoring on a wide array of shots and capitalizing on crucial Hidayat mistakes to storm to a 14-4 lead.

Hidayat, who won the Olympic gold as an unranked player in Athens, Greece, couldn't find his range in the third set, sailing shots wide and lobs long while being caught looking at several Jonassen winners that clipped the baseline.

But the crowd-darling that he is, Hidayat worked the big audience into a frenzy when he won seven of the next nine points from 5-18 down for 12-20, before a Jonassen backhand winner finally put the game to bed for Europe's first two points in the three-day meet.

"I had a hard time adjusting because it was a bit windy in my side (of the court)," said the 30-year-old Wang through an interpreter. "I also had little time to train for the event."

Audina Tjiptawan appeared to be the one to hand Europe its first win after that easy first set romp, but Wang got her game going – charging to the next and scoring easy points.

With the event taking that turn, the match featuring Filipinos Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion could prove key to the event,where the winning continent pockets $60,000.

The Asuncions battle Thomas Laybourn and Kamilla Rytter-Juhl in the mixed doubles event that opens third day action today and the Filipinos, ranked 20th in the world, are given an equal chance to post an upset.

Each victory today will be worth three points with the first continent to score 10 points going home with the cup and the prize money.

Hidayat's performance against Jonassen last night could have also made the decision-making easier for the Asian captain on who to field in the men's singles.

Lin was overpowering despite dropping the first set against Kaldau on Friday and Jonassen is looking forward to being tapped by the Euro skipper to play the Chinese ranked second in the world.

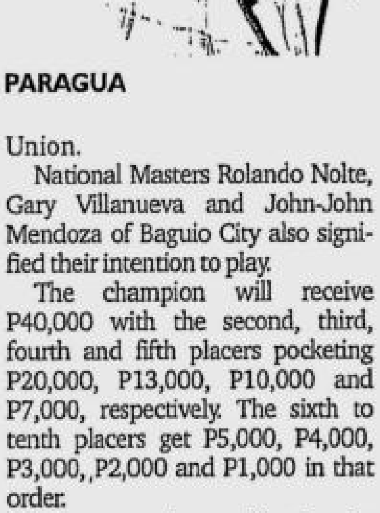
The event is being presented by SMART Communications and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co, and sponsored by JVC, ABC 5, Nokia, Snickers, Information Gateway, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Toby's Yonex, Sunrise, Philippine Star, Discovery Suites, California Pizza Kitchen and Gatorade.

MasterCard

GAIL Emms and Donna Kellogg play in harmony agianst their Asian foes.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Paragua, Torre join Cordillera chessfest



PARAGUA

GRANDMASTERS MARK Paragua and Eugene Torre will lead the field in the 2006 Cordillera Open Chess Championships slated on Aug. 20-25 at the Baguio Golf and Country Club in Baguio City.

Paragua, the country's top-ranked player with an Elo of 2604 and Torre, Asia's first GM, are expected to battle it out for the title with GM-candidate Jayson Gonzales in the P110,000 tournament sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

The nine-round Swiss system event will be hosted by former Benguet Governor and NCFP director Raul "Rocky" Molintas in cooperation with NCFP chair Quezon City representative Matias "Mat" Defensor and NCFP executive director lawyer Samuel "Sammy" Estimo.

"I expect more titled players to join this tournament," said Gonzales, who only needs one more GM result to complete his GM status.

Also expected to see action are members of RP Team Jakarta ASEAN age-groupers headed by 10-year-old Fide Master Jan Emmanuel Garcia of Sampaloc, Manila.The others are 6-year-old Samantha Glo Revita of Rosales, Pangasinan, Generose Razo of Candon City, Ilocos Sur, Kristine Mae Mariano of Laoag, Ilocos Norte, and Chardine Cheradee Camacho of Caba, La Union.

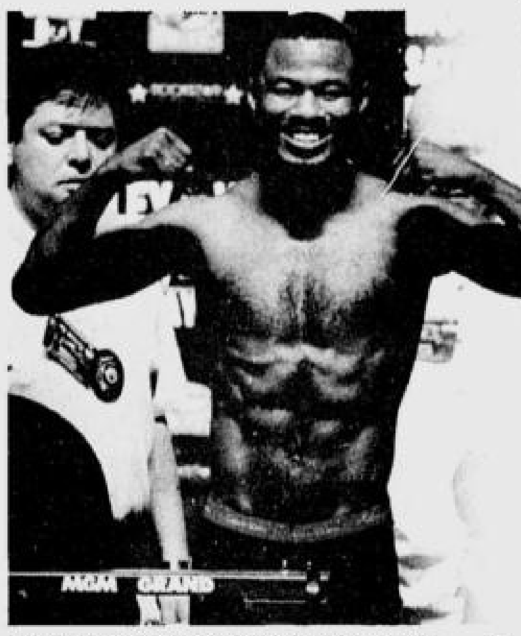
National Masters Rolando Nolte, Gary Villanueva and John-John Mendoza of Baguio City also signified their intention to play.

The champion will receive P40,000 with the second, third, fourth and fifth placers pocketing P20,000, P13,000, P10,000 and P7,000, respectively. The sixth to tenth placers get P5,000, P4,000, P3,000,,P2,000 and P1,000 in that order.

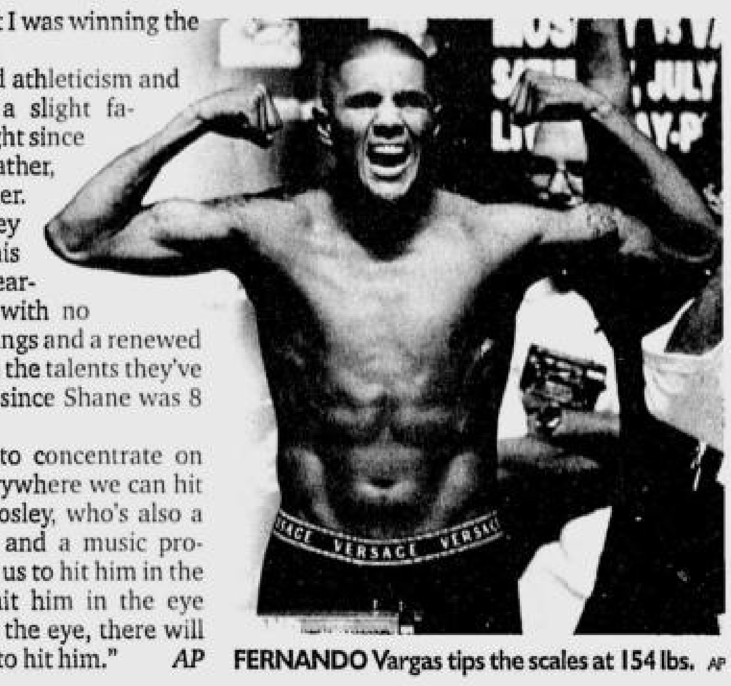
Category prizes will also be awarded to the top kiddy finisher, top junior, top senior, top lady and top local players.

For inquiries, contact tournament organizer Molintas at 0918-9481080 or Estimo at 0915-9360354. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Respect is behind Mosley's rematch with Vargas



SHANE Mosley weighs in at 153 pounds. AP



FERNANDO Vargas tips the scales at 154 lbs. AP

LAS VEGAS—ALTHOUGH SHANE Mosley and Fernando Vargas stared menacingly into each other's eyes at the weigh-in, there was a mutual regard behind the usual boxing bravado.

And as long as Vargas has both of those eyes open in the fighters' rematch Saturday night, fans could see another bout just as thrilling as Mosley's controversial 10th-round victory in their first matchup five months ago.

While Vargas growled and Mosley smirked through the pre-fight events, their 70-kilogram (154-pound) nontitle matchup is shaping up as another compelling intersection of two Southern California natives and longtime acquaintances.

Just don't expect any real theatrics outside the ring at the MGM Grand.

"There's a mutual respect between both of us, because we've been in the ring with each other, and we know what we have to do," Vargas said. "We don't have to say anything."

The rematch came together quickly because both fighters had unfinished business from February—and their promoters quickly recognized the appeal of another go-round.

Vargas (26-3, 22 KOs) thought he was winning that first fight despite a grotesque swelling over his left eye. He was infuriated when it was stopped, and the volatile fighter claimed Mosley's head-butts were the only thing keeping him from victory.

Almost nobody else saw it that way. Mosley (42-4, 36 KOs) was leading on two judges' scorecards, and Vargas' swelling appeared to be caused by Sugar Shane's peppering right hand, not his head.

"We can go back and forth on it, but the tape shows that I was winning the fight," Mosley said.

With his vaunted athleticism and speed, Mosley is a slight favorite in his first fight since re-hiring his father, Jack, as his trainer. The younger Mosley essentially fired his father three bouts earlier, but reunited with no apparent hard feelings and a renewed desire to maximize the talents they've nurtured together since Shane was 8 years old.

"We are going to concentrate on hitting Vargas everywhere we can hit him," said Jack Mosley, who's also a physical therapist and a music producer. "If he wants us to hit him in the eye again, we'll hit him in the eye again. If he blocks the eye, there will be someplace else to hit him." *AP*

Buenavista, Sealza top marathon favorites

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST LONG DISTANCE runners strut their stuff today in what is expected to be a tightly-fought Metro Manila elimination leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon.

Athens Olympian Eduardo Buenavista, Reynaldo de los Reyes, Rogelio Reli and Ronald Despi are the men to watch in the men's division of the full marathon which will select the biggest contingent of qualifiers to the National Finals in December.

The distaff side is a tossup between 2002 champion Geraldine Sealza and Ailyn Tolentino.

The 42K race fires off at 4:30 a.m. at the kilometer-zero point in front of the Jose Rizal monument in Rizal Park, along Roxas Boulevard.

From there, runners will turn around at NAIA Road and head for Edsa via Gil Puyat Ave. Their final turnaround point is at Heritage Road in Taguig City after passing through the Bonifacio Global City and Ft. Bonifacio Army Camp. Runners return to the finish line using the same route.

Upon reaching the Gil Puyat-Roxas Blvd. intersection, runners will turn right towards the finish line at the Quirino Grandstand using the southbound lane of Roxas Blvd.

Motorists are advised to take alternate routes or be extra cautious when traveling in the vicinity of the race route Sunday morning.

All males who finish the 42K race in less than four hours and all females who finish within four and a half hours are qualified to compete in the 42K grand finale on Dec. 10.

The winners in the men's and women's race will each win P30,000 and a trophy. The 10K side event will be flagged off at 6 a.m., the 5K fun run at 6:02 and the Kiddies 3K run at 6:04.

RP riders 3rd in Asian race

TEAM NAMSSA-PHILIPPINES WOUND UP third overall in the 10-country 2006 Asian Roadrace of Nations at the 2.5-kilometer Nakhonchaisri track at Nakhonchaisri in Nakhonprathom in Thailand recently.

Jaime Barcial, Maico Buncio and Roderick Chua claimed the No. 2 spot for the Philippines during the qualifying time trials using unfamiliar Yamaha (Crypton Z) underbone bikes provided by Yamaha Thailand.

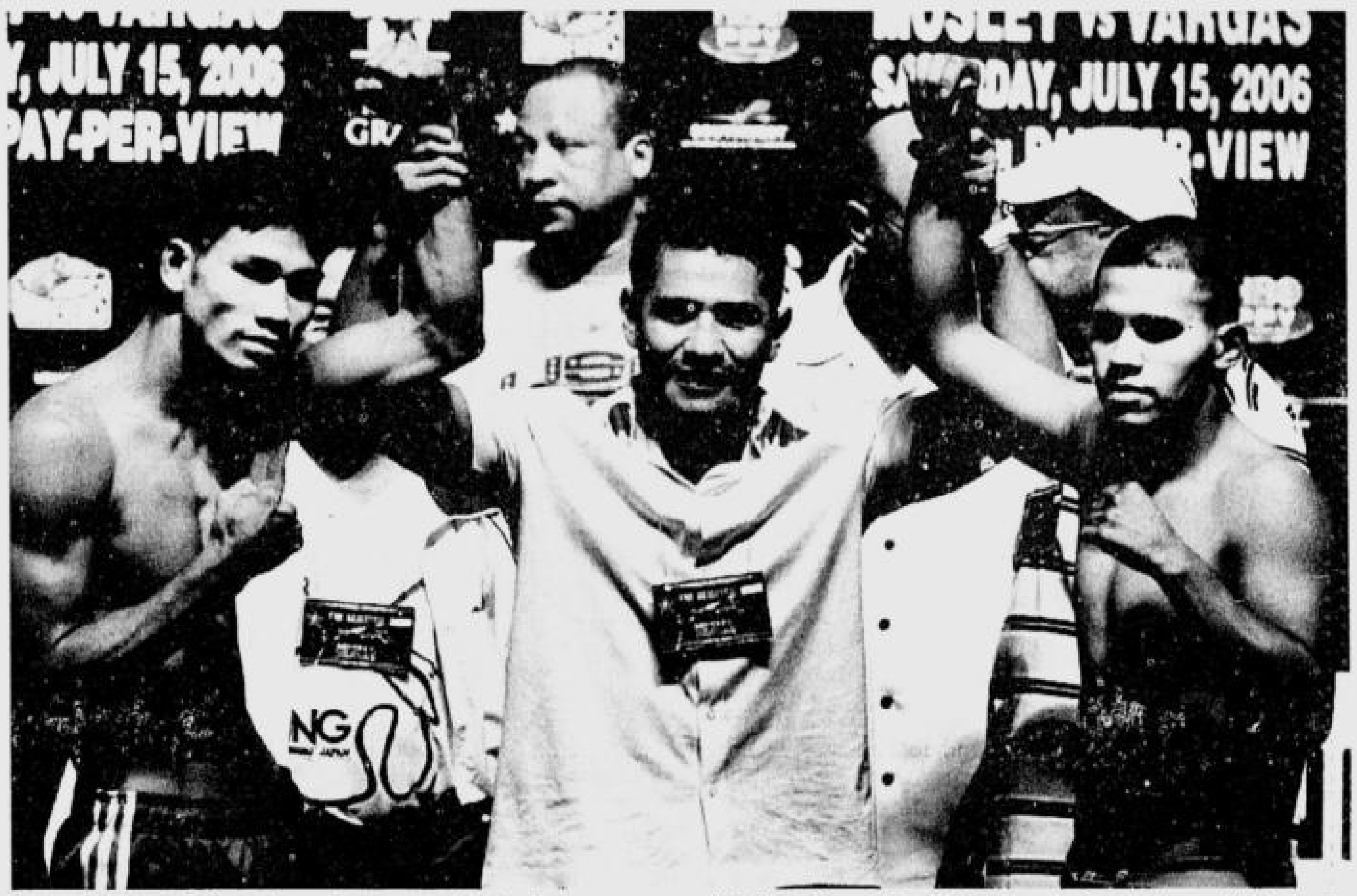
Barcial was the most consistent Filipino rider as he finished fifth overall. Buncio, a BS Entrepreneur freshman at University of Santo Tomas, landed seventh while Chua finished 13th for Team Namssa-Philippines.

"We're happy that we were able to deliver for the country," said Boy Albos of Norkis Yamaha, who spoke for the Philippine team.

Rattapong Virairoj, Prawat Yanwuth and Jeerasak Chaimontri finished 1-2-3 in both races as host Thailand won the competition.

Suico goes for world title

Cebuano pride targets WBA lightweight crown



RANDY Suico (left) and Juan Diaz pose with boxing promoter and fighter Marco Antonio Barrera after their weigh-in. AP

THEY CHRISTENED HIM as he with the "Fists of Stone."

Whether those fists would be enough to destroy a "Baby Bull" will be known today when Randy Suico tries to become the lone Filipino world champion by slugging it out against WBA lightweight king Juan Diaz at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

Manny Pacquiao may be the current sensation of local boxing—and the current flavor of the world—but Suico will be trying to pocket something the "Pacman" doesn't currently hold—a world title.

Pacquiao's international super featherweight title is a token belt reserved for boxers not in the top 10 of their weight divisions.

And despite the odds stacked against the Cebu-based Suico, preparations are already being made for a red carpet treatment should he emerge triumphant.

Apart from a victory parade, Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano has also pledged a big cash incentive for the dynamite-fisted Suico should he successfully become a world champion today.

The Oscar De la Hoya-promoted card, which will be aired simulcast over Solar Sports and RPN-9 starting at 10 a.m. today, will serve as the chief support to the Shane Mosley-Fernando Vargas rematch.

At yesterday's weigh-in, both Suico and Diaz came in at 135 lbs and both made the limit right at their first try.

Suico was given the nickname "Komong Bato," which in the Visayan dialect means "fists of stone," because of his punching power, but not even that was even to sway oddsmakers to install him the favorite in his bout against the champion, who goes by the nickname "Baby Bull."

As of yesterday, Diaz, who hails from Houston, was a minus-800 favorite, which means that an $800 bet for Diaz only yields a $100 return.

The 26-year-old Suico was listed as a plus-500 underdog, which means that a $100 dollar bet for Suico will win a staggering $500.

The undefeated Diaz (29-0, 14 KO's) will be making the fourth defense of his world title against the heavy-handed Suico (24-2, 21 KO's), who will be seeing action in his first world title bout.

Pacquiao was originally scheduled to fly to Las Vegas to cheer for Suico but ditched his plans after being rushed to the hospital on Friday due to a bout with gastroenteritis.

But Pacquiao's absence could realign the stars in favor of the Filipino.

Pacquiao, who is now resting at his home in Paranaque City, was at ringside when two other local world title hopefuls—Yukka Gejon and Rodel Mayol—vied for the WBA and WBC 105-lb titles. Both came up short in their bid to annex the crowns.

Pacquiao's close associates—Rex "Wakee" Salud and lawyer Jing Gacal—made the trip and will provide morale support to the Filipino fighter.

"Manny chose to stay behind but we are here to support Suico," Salud said in an interview with this writer yesterday from Las Vegas. Suico's manager, Joe Koizumi of Japan, will also be present.

'Scorching' duel seen between Alonso, Schumacher

MAGNY COURS, FRANCE—FORMULA One champion Fernando Alonso and seven-time champion Michael Schumacher duel again at this weekend's French Grand Prix.

Temperatures rose above 35 degrees Celsius (95°F) on Friday—and more than 53°C (127°F) on the track—and it's expected to get even hotter for Sunday's race.

Schumacher placed sixth in practice on Friday.

"The situation looks pretty good," the German said afterward. "We are reasonably satisfied with what we have seen this afternoon."

Alonso also appeared relaxed, calling the day "a normal Friday."

Schumacher ended Alonso's four-race winning streak with a 1-2 Ferrari finish at the United States GP on July 2. It was his third win in 10 races this year and the 87th of his career.

Alonso's fifth place at Indianapolis was his lowest finish of the season and the first time he has been off the podium since finishing 11th at the Hungarian GP in July 2005.

Still, the Spaniard has a comfortable 88-69 lead over Schumacher in the drivers standings.

Six of the other seven 2006 races have been won by Alonso, with fellow Renault driver Giancarlo Fisichella winning the seventh.

Alonso was second in afternoon practice to Sauber's Robert Kubica, who also led the first session. Fifth-placed Fisichella came in ahead of Schumacher on sixth.

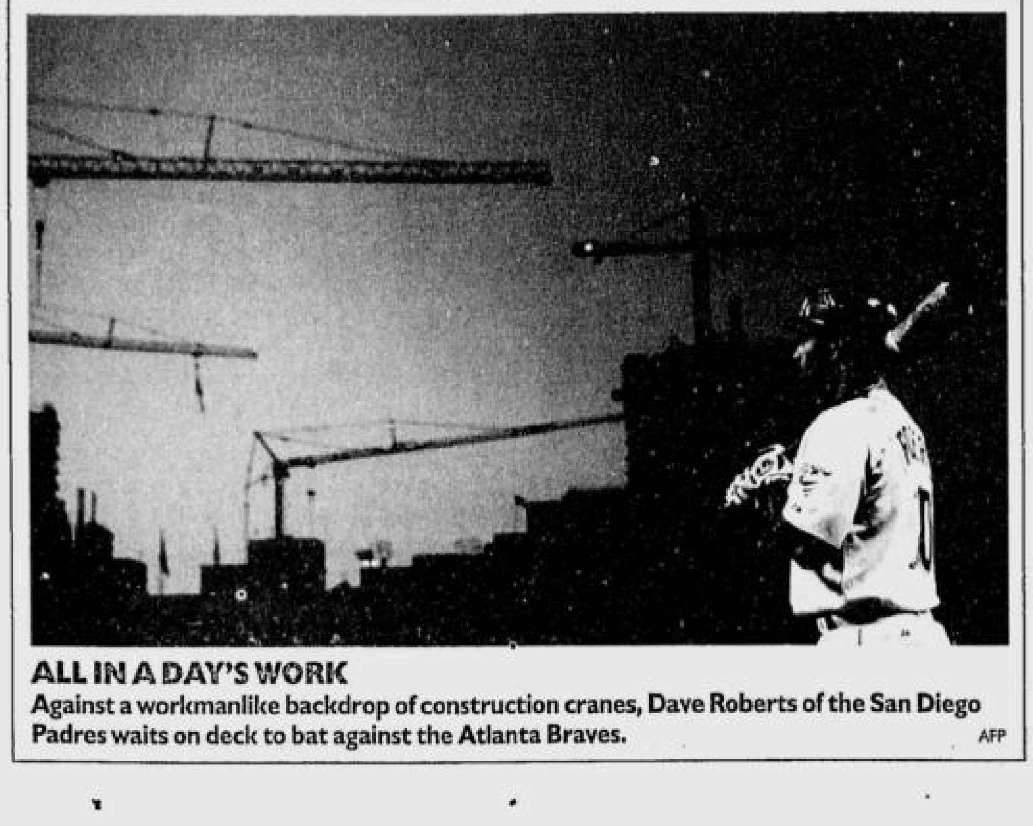
McLaren-Mercedes has a new driver for the race with Pedro de la Rosa of Spain replacing Juan Pablo Montoya for Sunday's race. McLaren cut the Colombian from the team after he announced he would be heading to NASCAR next season.

However Ron Dennis, head of the McLaren team, said there was a possibility of Montoya returning this season. "Juan Pablo is contracted through to the end of the year," Dennis said. "And if we so choose, he will test and race again."

"He still is contracted to us unless there is some other commercial arrangement between ourselves and the NASCAR team or Juan himself."

De la Rosa ended up 22nd in the afternoon practice. Montoya was usually among the top 10.

Mild Seven Viewing Party: THE SECOND half of the Formula One season kicks off with the French Grand Prix at the Circuit de Nevers Magny-Cours. Back on home soil, the Mild Seven Renault F1 team is determined to dominate the weekend as it leads the way in the constructors' race with 131 points. Fans aged 18 and above can catch the French GP at the Mild Seven F1 Club viewing party at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Aruba Bar in Metrowalk, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. There will be trivia contests for racing aficionados, with original team merchandise to be given away as prizes.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK
Against a workmanlike backdrop of construction cranes, Dave Roberts of the San Diego Padres waits on deck to bat against the Atlanta Braves. AFP

Team First-Ingen tops Enduro tilt

HARD WORK AND STRATEGIC PLANNING worked wonders for Team First-Ingen Sports Wildman Sandals as it ruled the Elite category of the Manila leg of the 2006 Enduro San Mig Light Adventures Series recently.

Powered by JT Gonzales, Ivy Lou Medrano and Anelia Prinme, Team First-Ingen finished the race in 16 hours and 16 minutes, by far the fastest time posted by a team in a 24-hour Enduro SML quest in four years.

"*Hindi na halos kami natulog* (We hardly slept)," said Prinme, who emerged female champion in the Elite category. "*Nag* map out *na kami nang* strategy for the next day *para may* head start *na kami sa ibang* teams. (We mapped out our strategy for the next day to gain a head start on other teams)."

Team First-Ingen Sports Wildman Sandals won the top prize of P75,000, along with San Mig Light premium items and a trophy.

Copping second place was Team AMCI Gaglers, composed of James Tagara, Roy Adeva and Christine Navarro. Tagara's trio clocked 21 hours and 25 minutes and took home P30,000, SML premium items and a trophy.

Team News Central led by Tricia Chiongbian wound up third after crossing the finish line 26 minutes later than AMCI Gaglers. Rienzi del Rosario and Miguel Lopez completed News Central's threesome.

The race was powered by San Mig Light and supported by Habagat, Converse, NS Royal Pensione, Rudy Project, Fitness First and Asian Spirit.

Prinme said the race was not only a contest of speed as it also tested their mental alertness and physical abilities.

Race director Neyney Guevarra and Leo Oracion, the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mount Everest, were more than happy with the outcome of the race.

"The success of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Series was a clear indication that we can stage and be at par with foreign countries when it comes to outdoor racing," said Guevarra. "The racers were thrilled with the course and some racers were asking us when and where will the next Enduro race be."

Prinme said she and her teammates were already looking forward to next year's Enduro SML Adventure Series.

A total of 28 teams took part in the Elite category that took the racers from the historic Barasoain church in Bulacan, to the ranges of the Sierra Madre Mountains, to the La Mesa dam and all the way to the urban streets of Quezon City.

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Lance's team rediscovers form

Landis keeps yellow jersey

CARCASSONNE, FRANCE—IF LANCE ARMSTRONG DROPS IN on the Tour de France as expected next week, he'll have something to celebrate.

His Discovery Channel squad, struggling at its first Tour without the seven-time champion, had its first stage winner on Friday, in young Ukrainian Yaroslav Popovych. US rider Floyd Landis kept the overall lead.

The now-retired Armstrong, a part owner of the Discovery squad, is expected at the race Tuesday or Wednesday, said team spokesman PJ Rabice. Given the struggles they've faced, his ex-teammates could probably do with his advice and help.

Discovery came to the Tour with several riders touted as possible contenders to pick up where Armstrong left off. George Hincapie, who rode with the Armstrong on all seven of his wins, got the team off to a quick start by placing second in the opening short time trial and by taking the overall race lead the next day.

But it was all downhill from there. Discovery flunked the first big test of the Tour, failing to place any riders in the top 15 in the first long time trial last weekend. And hopes of a rebound seemed all but dashed when Hincapie and other Discovery riders melted on the hardest day in the Pyrenees on Thursday.

What a difference a day makes.

Popovych's stylish win Friday—he rode alone to the finish in the medieval walled city of Carcassonne—could not have come at a better time, especially since Discovery had just lost two riders who dropped out of the Tour with injuries earlier in the day.

"Emergency! We were just desperate," said Discovery's 40-year-old veteran Russian rider, Viatceslav Ekimov.

Stage 12 took the Tour out of the Pyrenees. The sun was scorching, the terrain still tricky, with one moderately hard climb early on and other hills after that. Several groups of riders, looking to triumph on the French national holiday of Bastille Day, tried to ride off ahead of the main pack of riders, only to be reeled back in.

But Popovych and three other riders from rival teams succeeded where the others failed. As Carcassonne approached, with their lead over the main pack at more than four minutes, it became clear that one of them would be emerge as the winner.

Popovych made certain it would be him by shaking off his fellow riders with repeated bursts of speed on the city's outskirts. He sped over the last mile and a quarter alone and, as he crossed the line, repeatedly made the sign of the cross on his chest.

Only that morning, Discovery's savvy race manager, Johan Bruyneel, had sought to rally his riders. Even though the overall Tour title looks out of reach for Discovery, there are still stages left to win before the finish in Paris on July 23.

"This morning, coming out of the bus, Johan told me, 'Right, you need to go and win a stage.' Now, that's done," Popovych said. "We're going to use our imagination to do some beautiful things in the stages that are left."

The 26-year-old, who won the white jersey awarded to the Tour's best young rider last year, had started the day in 23rd place, 9 minutes behind Landis.

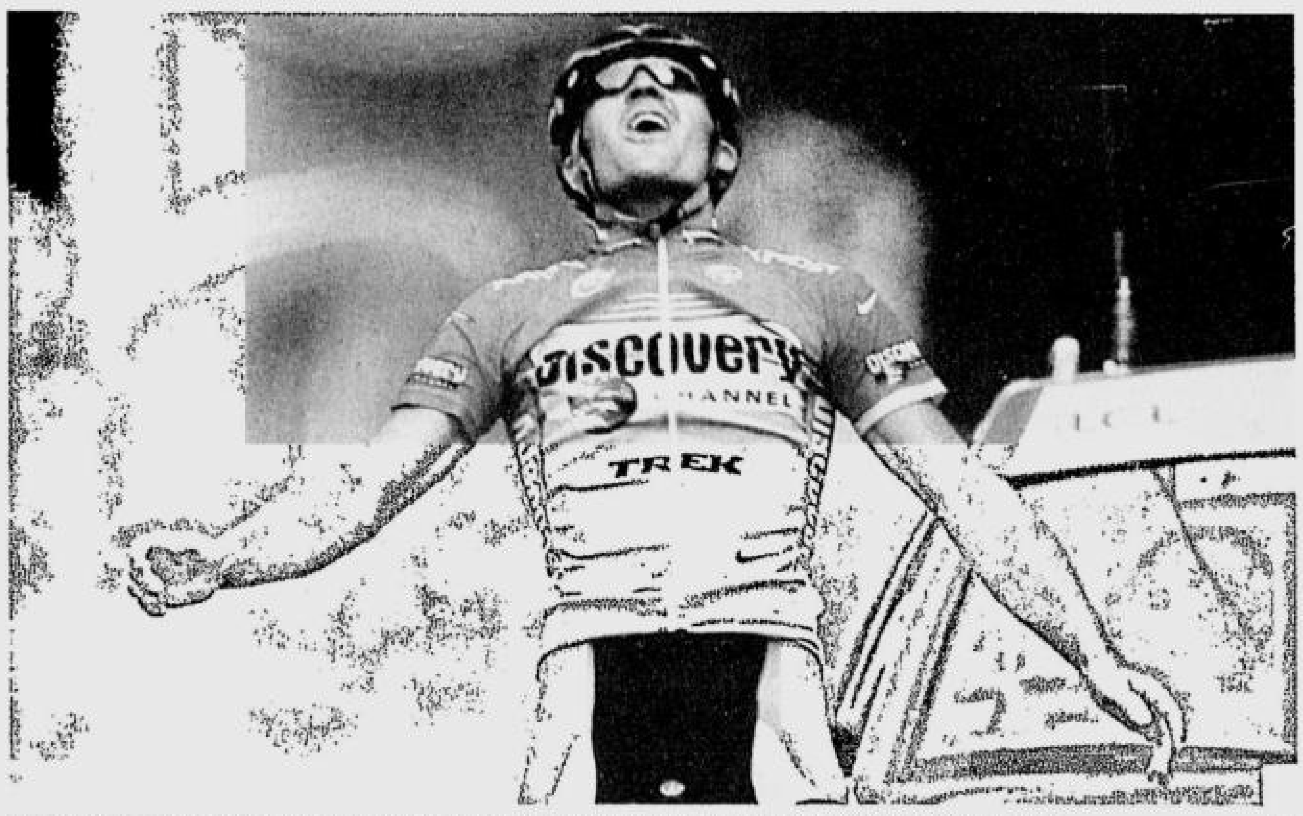
He moved up to 10th place, 4:15 behind Landis, a far smaller deficit that revives his chances of a high placing in Paris—if he rides better in the Alps next week than he did in the Pyrenees.

Popovych, the second Ukrainian to win a stage this year, covered the 211.5 kilometers (131 miles) in 4 hours, 34 minutes and 58 seconds—for an average speed of just over 46 kph (28 mph), remarkably quick given the hills and the heat.

He finished 27 seconds ahead of Italian Alessandro Ballan, 29 seconds ahead of Spaniard Oscar Freire and 35 ahead of Christophe Le Mevel—his three companions in the escape.

Landis and contenders right behind him in the overall standings finished in a group together, 4:25 back.

Landis is still eight seconds ahead of Cyril Dessel. Russian Denis Menchov, who looks strong, trails Landis by 61 seconds in third. *AP*



UKRAINE'S Yaroslav Popovych (Discovery Channel/USA) celebrates as he crosses the finish line. AFP

Heat dries up Wie

SILVIS, ILLINOIS—MICHELLE WIE was taken to a hospital after withdrawing from the John Deere Classic with nine holes left Friday, overcome by the conditions on a hot, humid afternoon, and left the course in an ambulance, getting fluids intravenously.

"She suffered a number of different symptoms, including stomach pains, nausea, dizziness and breathing problems which worsened as the round continued," Wie's agent, Ross Berlin, said in a statement.

"She was treated at the emergency room of the Genesis Medical Center and will soon be released. Michelle was diagnosed with heat exhaustion and is now resting and in very good spirits."

Wie walked off the ninth hole on her own, but after talking with her parents said she couldn't play anymore. She then was taken to the course medical trailer, where she was treated for about 30 minutes.

Under local laws, Wie had to be taken to a hospital for further attention. Her mother, Bo, accompanied the teenager in the ambulance and her father, BJ, followed behind in a car.

"She's fine. She's getting better," B.J. Wie said when he came out of the course medical trailer. *AP*

Rankin, Kim take 'wet' Jamie Farr lead

GULBIS AP

SYLVANIA, OHIO—REILLEY RANKIN USED A new set of clubs to shoot a 3-under 68 on Friday and grab a share of the lead with Kim Mihyun at the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic before heavy rain forced the suspension of second-round play.

Kim shot 66 and was at 8-under 134 in the clubhouse, while Natalie Gulbis was 8 under through nine holes before play was stopped.

Se Ri Pak, attempting to match Mickey Wright's tour record of five victories in one event, and Annika Sorenstam were both 4 under through 11 holes.

Nearly all the holes were swamped and some were at least partially underwater at the height of the storm. A rushing river flowed downhill through the fairway on No. 9.

The course at Highland Meadows Golf Club already was waterlogged from three inches of rain that fell Wednesday.

Seventy-two players were on the course when the rain started.

Sung Ah Yim was 7 under through nine holes. Paula Creamer and first-round leader Liselotte Neumann both were on the course at 6 under.

Gulbis was on a roll on the front nine, making birdies on four of the first five holes. *AP*

Italian soccer crashes hard after hitting World Cup high

ROME—AFTER THE HIGH OF WORLD CUP victory, Italian soccer has fallen hard—with four top clubs, including powerhouse Juventus, and top officials and referees sanctioned for match-fixing.

An Italian sports tribunal demoted Juventus to the second division for the first time in its history and stripped it of its last two Serie A titles on Friday.

Lazio and Fiorentina also were demoted to the Serie B, while AC Milan was spared relegation but penalized 15 points and will not compete in Europe this season.

Of the 26 officials or referees accused in the scandal, 19 received sentences ranging from the maximum five-year ban to a warning; five were acquitted; and two were banned for life without prosecution because they resigned before being charged.

The sentences—handed down five days after Italy won its fourth World Cup title—can be appealed within five days to a higher sports court.

Hundreds of fans for Lazio, the capital's other team along with AS Roma, gathered outside a Rome hotel where judges read the verdicts in Italy's biggest sports trial, defending their club's virtue.

"It's a scandal that we were sent to same division as Juve," said Massimiliano Rossi, a 29-year-old fan. "Lazio was innocent."

Raucous chants rose from the crowd against Lazio president Claudio Lotito, whom fans held responsible for the team's troubles and who received a 3 1/2-year ban; a lawyer for the club was shoved and insulted when he tried to leave the hotel. *AP*

Fall and rise of Zidane fascinates whole world

PARIS—THE FAIRY TALE OF ZINEDINE Zidane vanished in an instant of visceral rage at the World Cup final. But what followed has proved strangely more compelling—more human, more profound, more universal.

His now-legendary head-butt—reacting to repeated insults—fascinated viewers around the world, competed with war zones for global headlines, and obsessed philosophers and sports fans alike.

And it has elevated "Zizou" into an unlikely hero—unrepentant and flawed, with an old-fashioned macho morality that has both captivated and appalled millions in the new millennium.

"Above all, I'm human," he said on French television Wednesday night, after three long days of silence following the brutal move that marked the end of his stellar, 18-year career.

The surreal week started Sunday night, in the 110th minute of a riveting World Cup final, with France and Italy tied 1-1 in extra time. Italian defender Marco Materazzi grabbed Zidane's jersey as a French attack on goal passed harmlessly by. The two exchanged words. Seconds later, Zidane spun, lowered his head and rammed Materazzi's chest, knocking him to the ground.

The next few days were a frenzy of worldwide condemnation and speculation: What, people around the world asked, made Zidane crack? The head-butt overshadowed the result of the Cup—Italy won 5-3 in a penalty shootout—and threatened to mar soccer's biggest spectacle.

Suicide of a demi-god

Even before Zidane spoke out, the iconic French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy wrote in the the French press of the "suicide" of a "demi-god," calling Zidane a "super-Achilles" who was humanized by a head-butt instead of a vulnerable heel.

Many questioned how a player such as Materrazzi—widely known as a ruffian on the field—could dare interfere with the workings of a genius.

In a New Republic commentary entitled "Zidane's Priceless Headbutt," Luke Dempsey indignantly observed that the Italian "had the temerity to speak words to Zidane—who dares speak to Debussy as he composes, to Victor Hugo as he writes, to Edith Piaf as she sings, to Monet as he paints?"

And the incident immediately became the stuff of pop culture legend — generating Internet jokes, an online game where users mow down a field of Materazzis, and fierce, parodic pop jingles about head-butting.

On Wednesday, when the fallen icon spoke out at last—in successive interviews on French television, with an olive-green military-style jacket draped over his shoulders—many around the world seemed to be looking for any excuse to forgive.

"I apologize, to all the children" who watched the match, he said—but he didn't repent, saying Materazzi had insulted his mother and sister so deeply he had no choice but to respond.

Zidane shifted the blame to Materazzi—saying he had gravely insulted his mother and sister—and editorialists across Europe followed his lead.

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'Idol' judges exceed talent quota in Cebu

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esperas

CEBU CITY—"OUR EXpectations were met, although I know there are so many good singers here who didn't audition. They are afraid to risk their jobs," declared "Philippine Idol" judge Pilita Corrales on the turnout of the major auditions here for the reality talent search on ABC 5.

The two-day tryouts held at the state-of-the-art Big Foot Entertainment compound yielded 36 contestants. A total of 89 had made it to the initial screening held on July 4.

"You will see these people in bars, clubs and hotel lounges here," said Corrales, who shares judging chores task with composer Ryan Cayabyab and singer-TV host Francis Magalona. "They are afraid to leave their bands or jobs because they are unsure of their chances in the contest. I'm proud of those who made it here."

More positive

Only 25 contestants each from the Visayas and Mindanao regions were supposed to get the coveted Golden Tickets. But since only 17 were picked from the major auditions in Davao last month, the judges were allowed to give out 33 here.

"We've exceeded our quota again," Cayabyab told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I feel more positive about Cebu [than Davao]. *Maraming magagaling.*"

Cayabyab and Corrales were very vocal about their disappointment over the low Davao turnout—only 17 were picked out of 75 who auditioned.

"I'm truly excited about the second level auditions in Manila," said Cayabyab. "*Yun ang bakbakan* (That will be the real slugfest)."

The 36 contestants will compete in the theater auditions set Aug. 1-3 at the CCP Main Theater in Pasay City.

Cayabyab said the judges found a lot of "really remarkable" contestants here but the question is whether or not they can compete with the others on the next level."

Cayabyab cited contestant Kenneth Paul Alonzo, 21, who "looked and sounded very female" during the auditions. "He has a good singing

'IDOL'/ A2-2

HAPPY JURORS. From left: FrancisM, Ryan Cayabyab and Pilita Corrales "feel good" about Cebu turnout.

RUDY ESPERAS

DID YOU KNOW...

'Bakekang' with Ch 7

GMA 7 HAS ACquired the rights to "Bakekang," a popular *komiks* novel by Carlo J. Caparas.

Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment TV, says "Bakekang," made into a movie starring Nora Aunor in the '70s, will be the network's new prime time soap series.

She said Caparas will act as creative consultant.

No one has been cast for the role, or tapped to direct.

Nini Valera

Claudine: I miss Gretchen

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AT THE MEDIA GATHERING FOR STAR CInema's forthcoming horror flick "Sukob," lead star Claudine Barretto's handlers advised reporters to steer clear of controversial subjects. Still, the question had to be asked: Did she miss her estranged sister Gretchen?

Claudine's answer was quick. "Yes, yes, (I miss her). I don't look for her ... because I see her on TV and she looks happy *naman*. But you know, when people mention her name, it makes me stop and think: *Ay, nakakamiss.*"

Although as a child, her "idol" was sister Gia, Claudine acknowledged that she had been close to Gretchen as well.

"When I was growing up, Gretchen was very busy (with show biz work), but we later bonded, especially during that tragic time in my life," Claudine said, referring to the turbulent period in 2002, when former boyfriend Rico Yan died and Gretchen became her staunchest defender from media assault.

CLAUDINE Barretto

Claudine insisted that she got over the family feud "a long time ago."

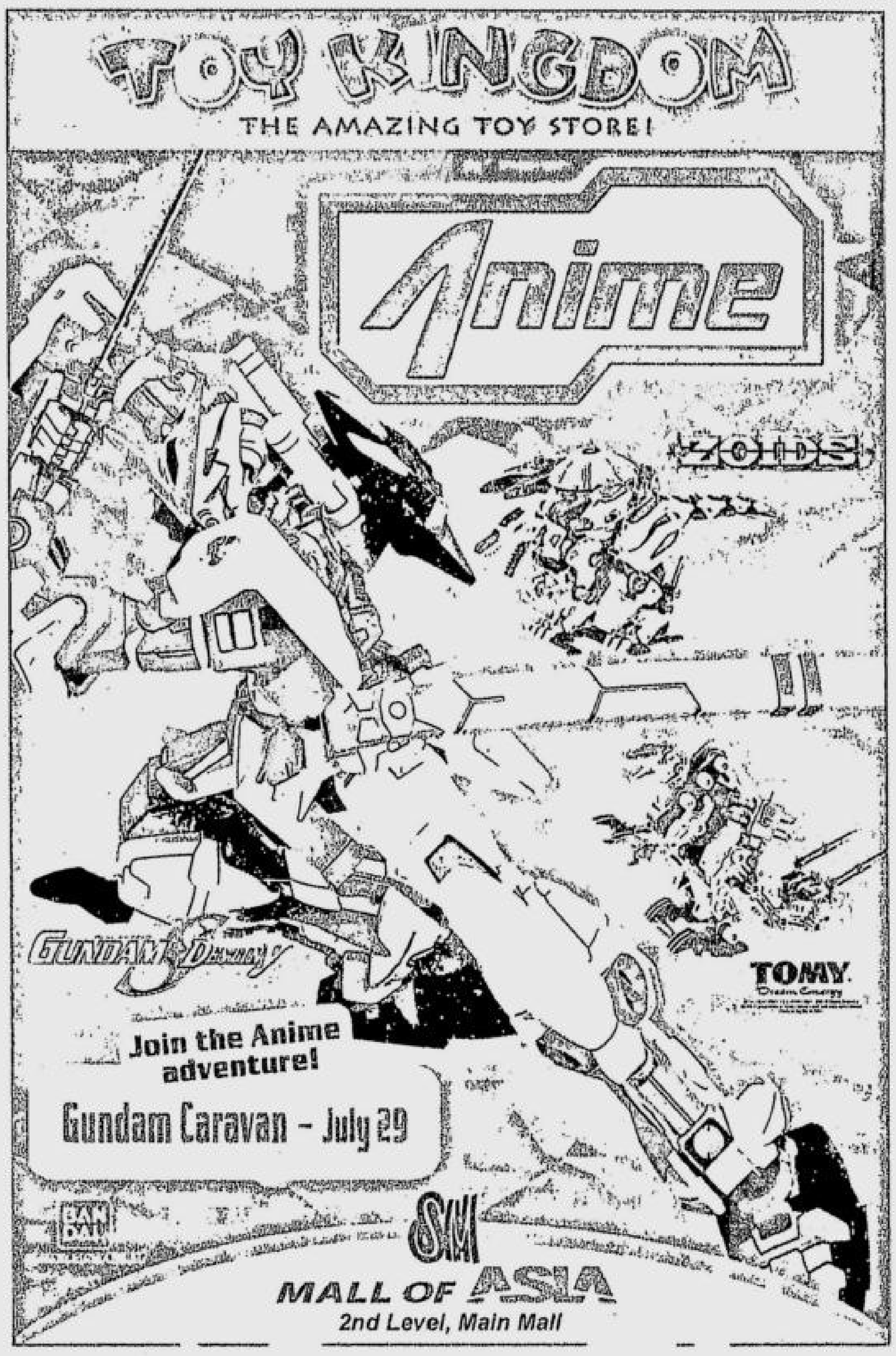
So when will the Barretto sisters patch things up?

"Maybe ... it's not yet time," Claudine said. "It's difficult to talk about my sister; something totally different might reach her. It's better for her to hear it straight from me. That's why I don't talk about it."

What she'd rather discuss is her four-month marriage to actor Raymart Santiago. She's still not used to her new status, she said. More than once, she did a double take when someone called her Ms Santiago. "I wondered, who's that?"

Also, she has yet to sign official documents

CLAUDINE/ A2-2



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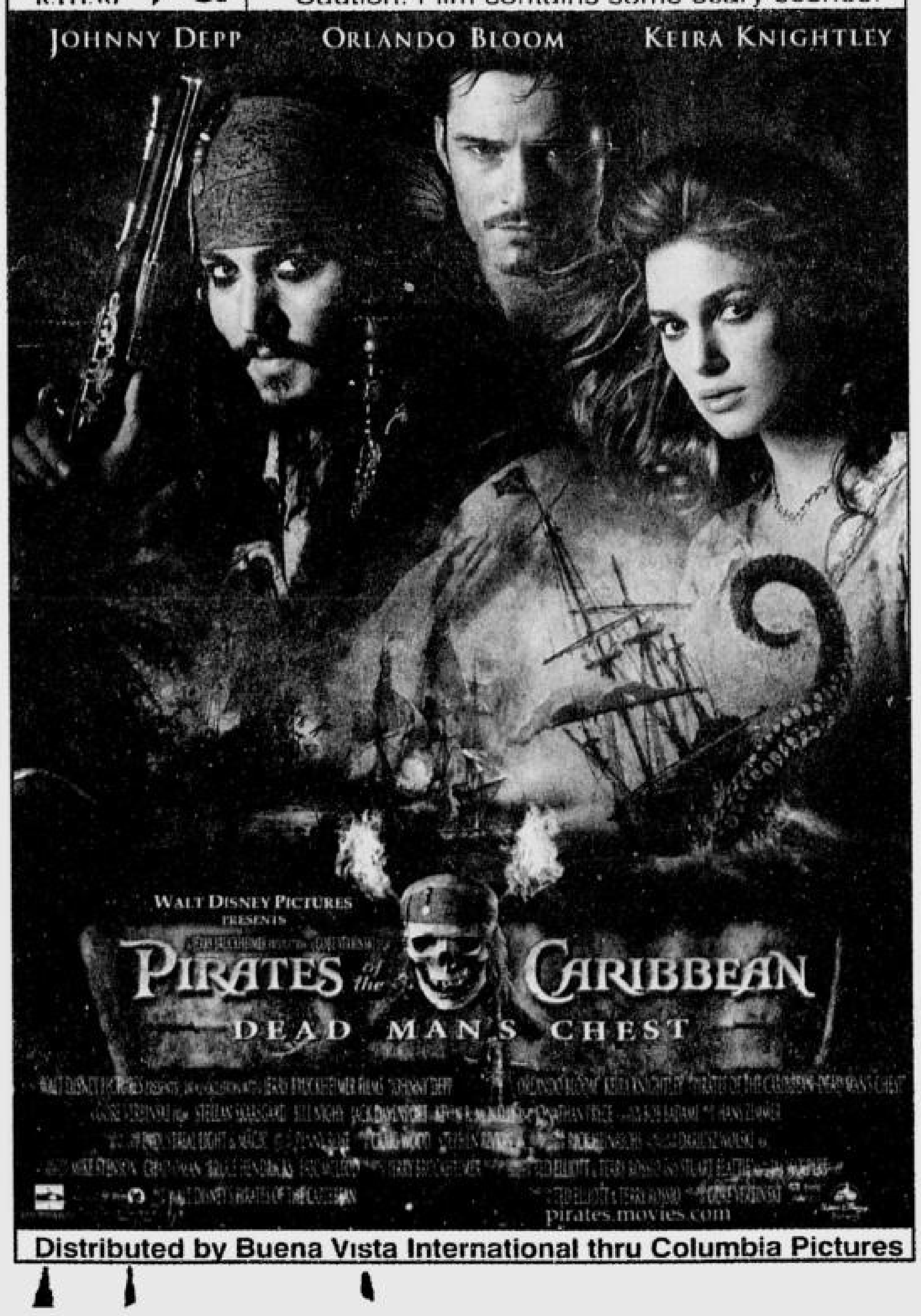

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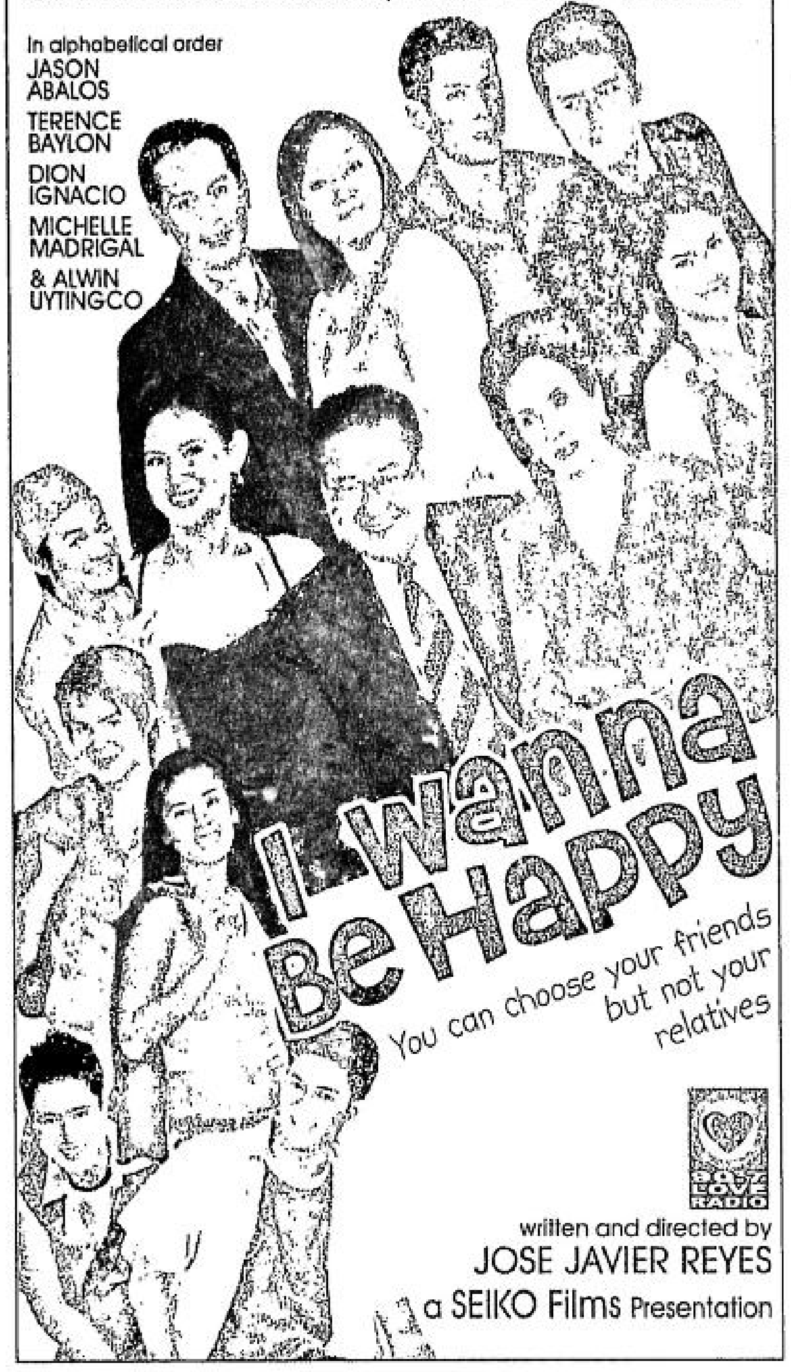
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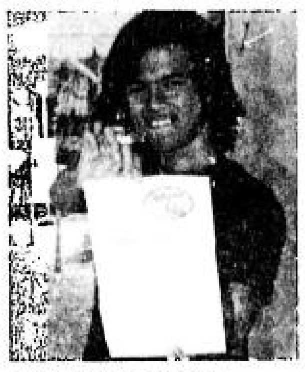

FRED Abaquita first joined "Fam Jam," a show that Magalona hosted.

MABEL So reminds Cayabyab of award-winning singer Dessa.

GIAN Carlo Magdangal, Jolina's cousin, was a member of the trio 17:28.

"Bet *ko 'to*," says Mr. C of Robert Bernadas, from Toledo City.

RP Idol

From page A2-1

voice. We were drawn to him. If he wins, the Philippines will be the first in the world to have an 'Idol' like that."

Too good …

Magalona singled out Monette Rica Lim, a radiology technician, whom he found to be "too good to be true." "She has the face, the height, nice hair, a good smile and a great voice," said Magalona. "I was dumbfounded when I heard her. Mamita (Corrales' nickname) jokingly said she didn't want to pick a contestant prettier than [herself]."

According to "Idol" host Ryan Agoncillo, male contestants who failed the auditions have taken the rejection far worse than the females did.

"One guy didn't want to speak at all," Ryan noted. "He just stood by the door. I didn't know whether he was ashamed to face the camera or he was praying to disappear. I left him alone. You just have to respect that. The girls were more composed."

Weird moments

As expected, there were weird moments, too. One contestant sauntered in doing her do-re-mi; another mimicking drumbeats.

One guy said he was there because his friends said he could sing. Cayabyab told him his friends had lied.

("Philippine Idol" will air its pilot episode July 29, on ABC 5.)

Philippine Idol

"THE contestants trust me," says program host Ryan Agoncillo. "I have to be worthy of that trust."

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G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 INITIAL D	5 UNITED 93	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 LOVEWRECKED
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 1:00, 4:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 2:15, 5:30, 11:59 GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 LOVEWRECKED 1:30, 3:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:45, 4:50, 7:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 1:35, 4:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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Claudine ...

From page A2-1

as Claudine Santiago. "We still need to fix lots of papers, like my passport."

Their life together is, of course, a work in progress, just like their home.

"We haven't had major disagreements—just minor ones," the actress related. "For example, we haven't installed shelves, so I [got] a china cabinet."

Problem was, they had to install the china cabinet right where Raymart's favorite painting—an Arturo Luz—had been displayed.

It took a lot of convincing, but Claudine got her way, though Raymart is very finicky about their conjugal home's interiors.

Marriage is about making compromises, she pointed out. It is a concept they have picked up in church, the Victory Christian Fellowship. "Submission through liberty," Claudine noted. "There's a way to submit to one's husband and still be happy."

The past four months have been a journey of discovery.

"Our pastor, Robert Hern, told me that I was a control freak," she said, laughing. "Up to now, I still need to change a lot in that aspect."

Apart from doing "Sukob" and an ABS-CBN soap, "Walang Kapalit" (with Piolo Pascual), Claudine is also taking up Child Psychology at Thomson, a correspondence school. The course comes in handy in raising 2-year-old adopted daughter Sabina, she said, as well as in handling her young students in Victory.

"I love children," Claudine stressed. "I'm two textbooks away from graduating. Hopefully, I'll finish this year. I chose the course because I look up to Gia, who's a schoolteacher. When I was a kid, she was my tutor."

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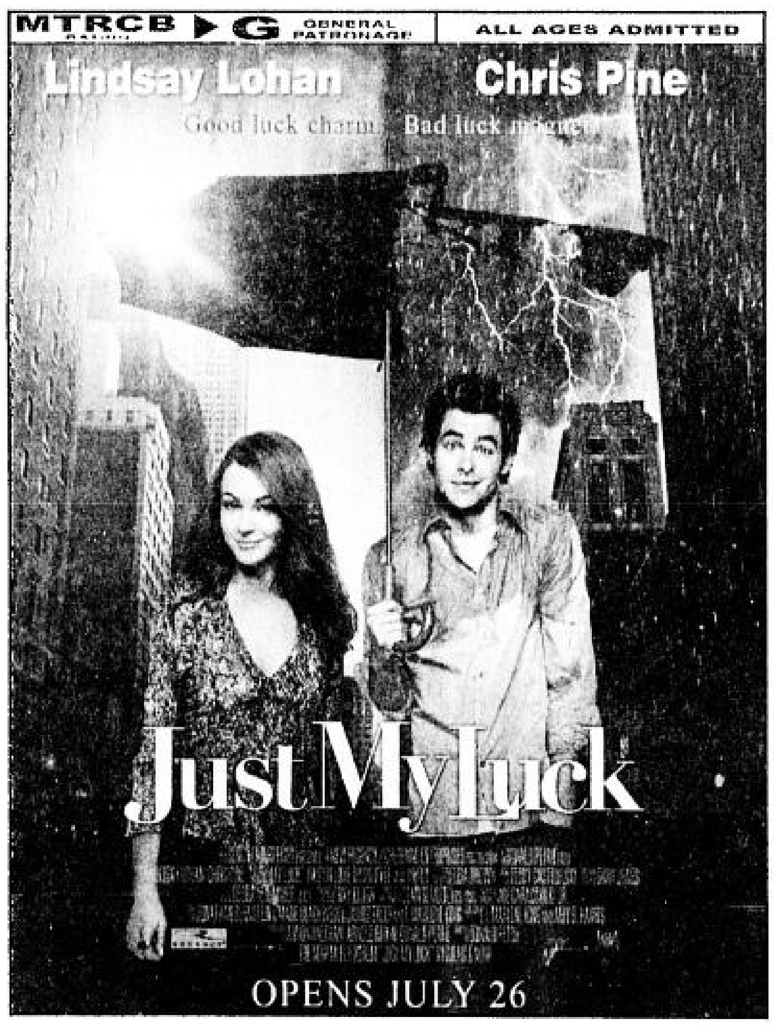
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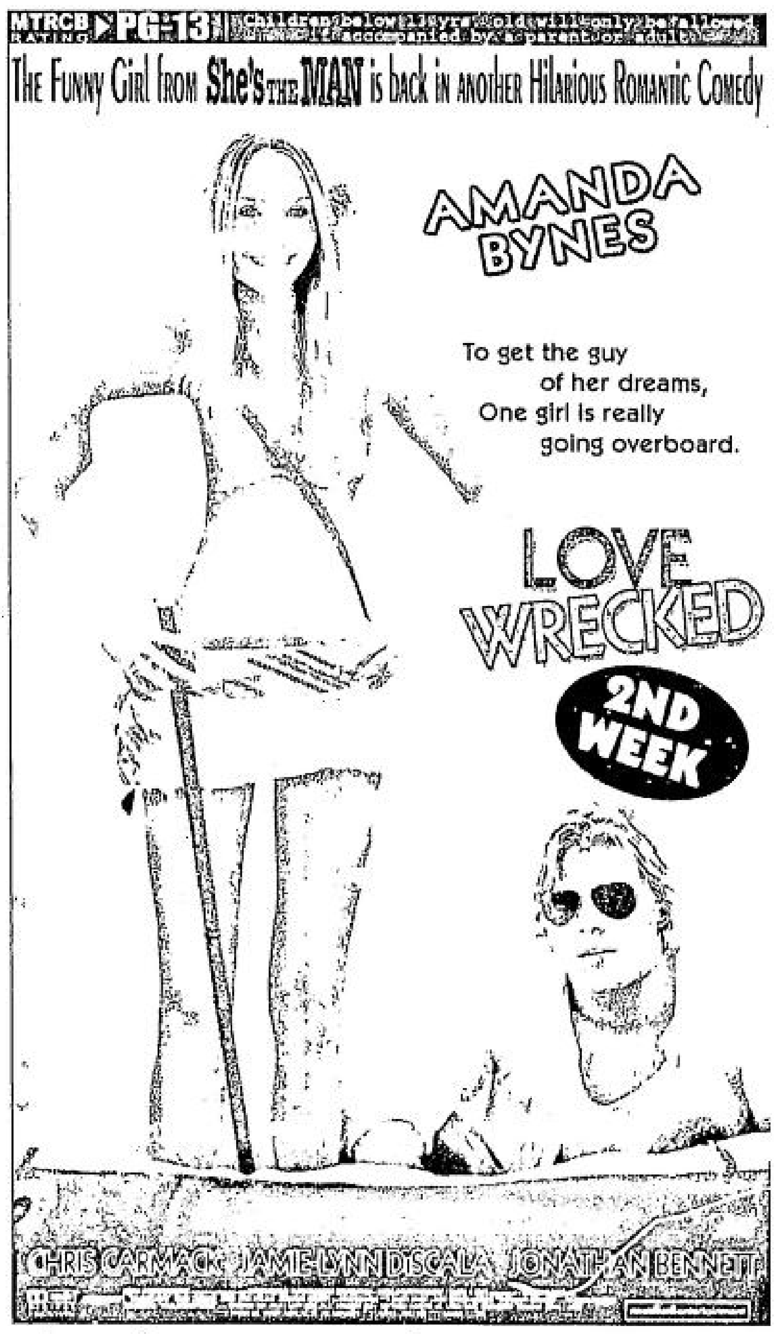
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AQUAMARINE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3

SM CITY CLARK
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
SUPERMAN RETURNS
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY MOLINO
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. ROSA
BATAS MILITAR
I WANNA BE HAPPY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CEBU
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
CHAOS
TAKE THE LEAD
I WANNA BE HAPPY
BATAS MILITAR
THE NUN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
LAKE HOUSE
RESERVED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SUPERMAN RETURN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
RESERVED
THE NUN

SM CITY DAVAO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE NUN
I WANNA BE HAPPY
FAST AND FURIOUS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURN

SM CITY CAGAYAN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURN
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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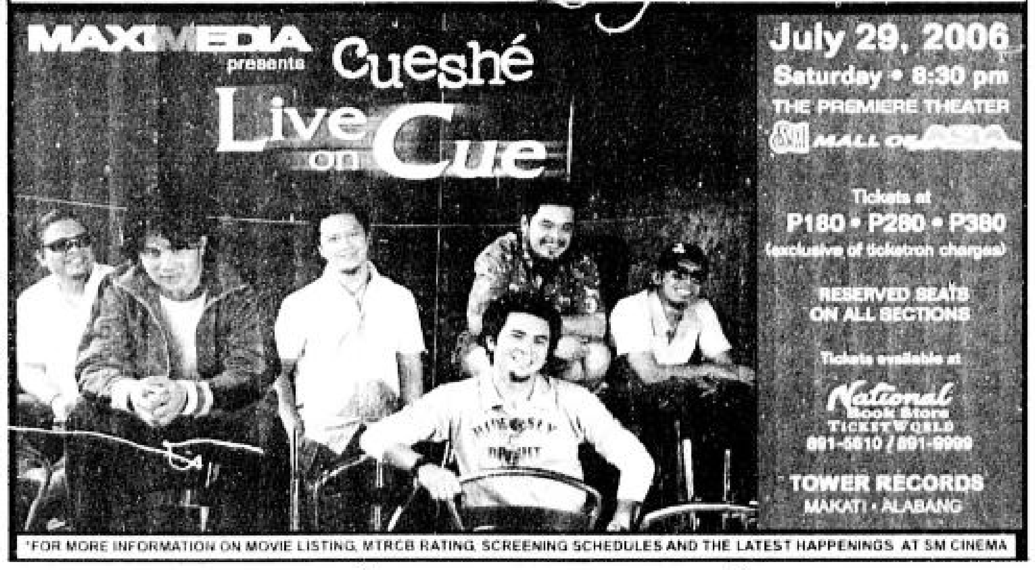

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CINEPLEX
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
PREMIERE
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

starmall
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3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY

metropolis star
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(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433894
1 BATAS MILITAR
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

THEATRES
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
9 INITIAL - D
10 BATAS MILITAR

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9348927
1 RESERVED
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 INITIAL - D

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
5 BATAS MILITAR

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 RESERVED

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4440346)
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 BATAS MILITAR

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237 7007
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 GARFIELD - 2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687 8163 or 72
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 I WANNA BE HAPPY
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 LAKE HOUSE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 HIRAM NA KATAWAN
3 BALAT SIBUYAS
4 SEE NO EVIL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 MOLATA
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LAKE HOUSE
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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2 MASARAP NA PUGAD

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BRYCE'S "narf" name is Story. "Lady in the Water" also stars Paul Giamatti. FRANK MASI

Bryce Dallas Howard is 'Lady in the Water' and Spider-Man's other girl

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—CONGRATULATIONS TO **Pia Clemente**, first Filipino-American woman to receive an Oscar nomination for the short film "Our Time Is Up." She's been invited to become a member of the Academy of Motion Arts and Sciences.

Not everyone in the industry gets this chance to become a member and vote in the Oscars. Academy president **Sid Ganis** says so in a statement:" "Two years ago, the Academy decided to slow membership growth ... [We are now] selecting [only] the most exceptionally qualified."

Pia joins 120 film artists and executives who include **Eric Bana, Jake Gyllenhaal, Felicity Huffman, Heath Ledger, Keira Knightley** and **Werner Herzog**. Pia's fellow nominee for "Our Time," director **Rob Pearlstein**, was also invited.

Spider-Man's girl

Big things are happening to **Bryce Dallas Howard**, talented actress-daughter of "The Da Vinci Code" director and Oscar winner **Ron Howard**.

Last month, Bryce, 25, married long-time boyfriend, actor **Seth Gabel**, 24, in Connecticut. The news was not so much about the wedding but about the family honeymoon that followed. Ron flew parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles to Turkey, where they boarded a luxurious yacht that sailed to Africa's North Coast and then to France.

Bryce will also be Spider-Man's other girlfriend, **Gwen Stacy**, in "Spider-Man 3." The ac-

BRYCE/ A3-2

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 • THX
12:00 3 10 6:20 9 30
6 VICTORY

2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:30 3.40 6:50 10.00
7 PIRATE SOF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30

3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
10:30 1 40 4:50 8 00
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5.00 7:30 10:00

4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
9 LOVE WRECKED
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
10 SEE NO EVIL
1:30 3:35 5:40 7·45 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 1

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00

2 BATAS MILITAR 12:30 2:50
SEE NO EVIL 6:00 7:55 9:50
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9.50

3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 LOVE WRECKED
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7 40 9:50

4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12.20 3:15 6:10 9·05
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11·20 2:15 5:10 8.05

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LOVE WRECKED
1:00 3.00 5:00 7:00 9:00
5 SEE NO EVIL
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12·00 3:00 6·00 9:00
6 BATAS MILITAR 1:00 3:00
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 2:00 5:00

3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3:00 6:00 9:00
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11·00 2:00 5·00 8:00

4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:20 3:20 6:20 9:15
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 INITIAL D

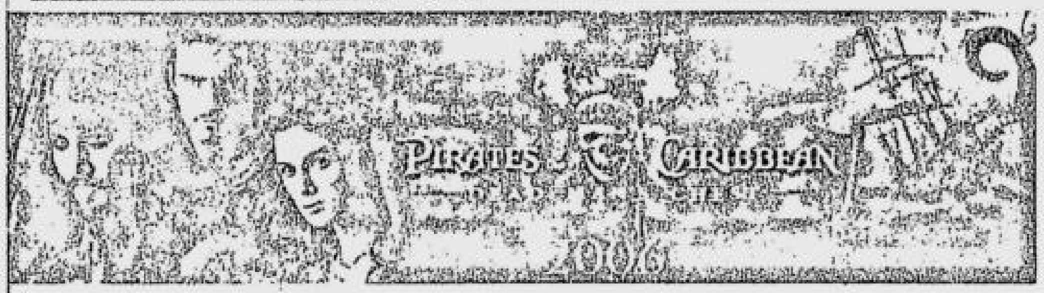
CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LOVE WRECKED

CHECKTHIS OUT ▶▶



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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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1 TAKE THE LEAD
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 SEE NO EVIL

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2 THE NUN
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
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1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:00	G
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	1:40, 5:00, 8:15	G
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	11:30, 2:45, 6:00, 9:30	G
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS	1:55, 4:55, 8:05, 11:05	G

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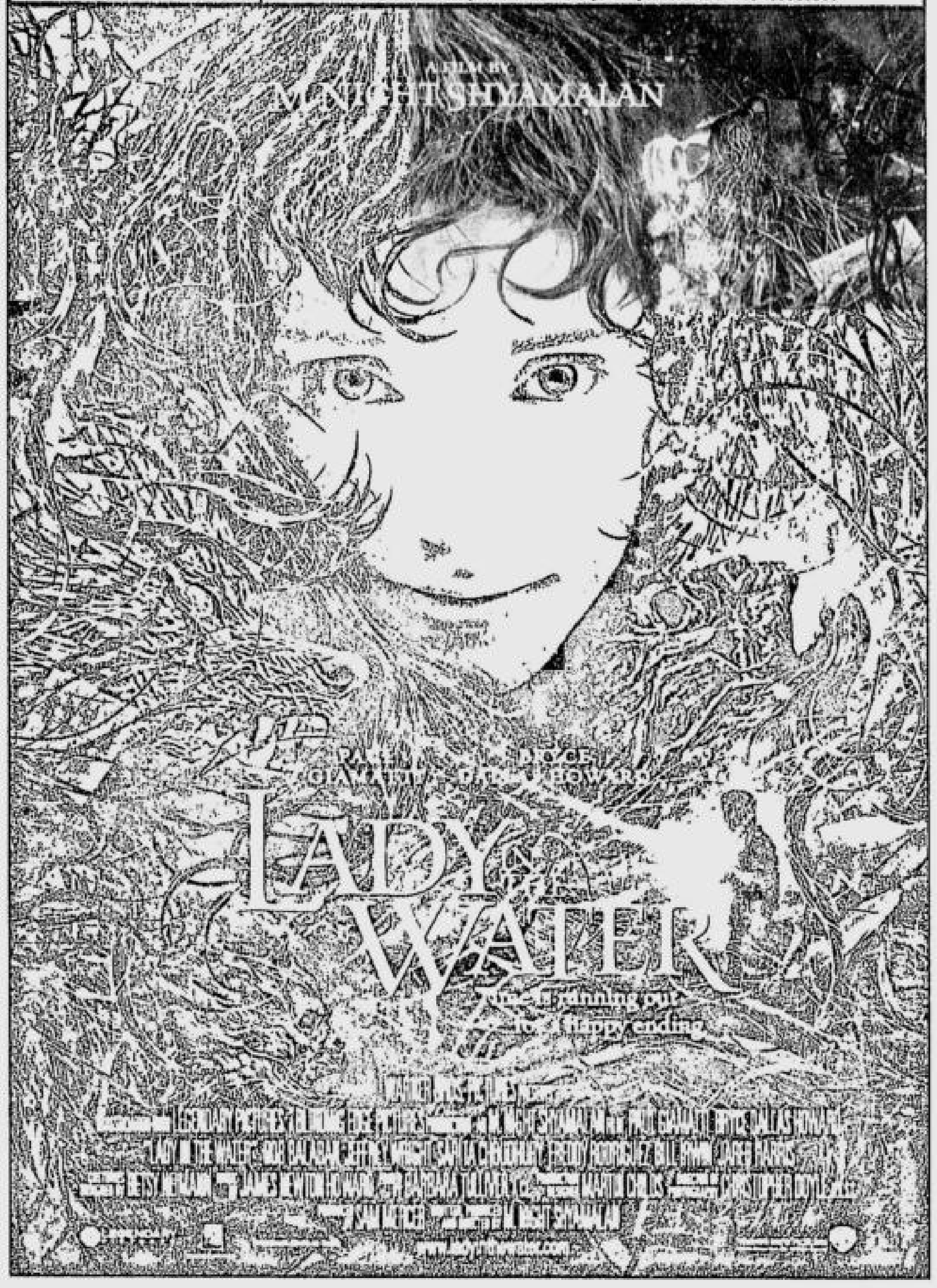

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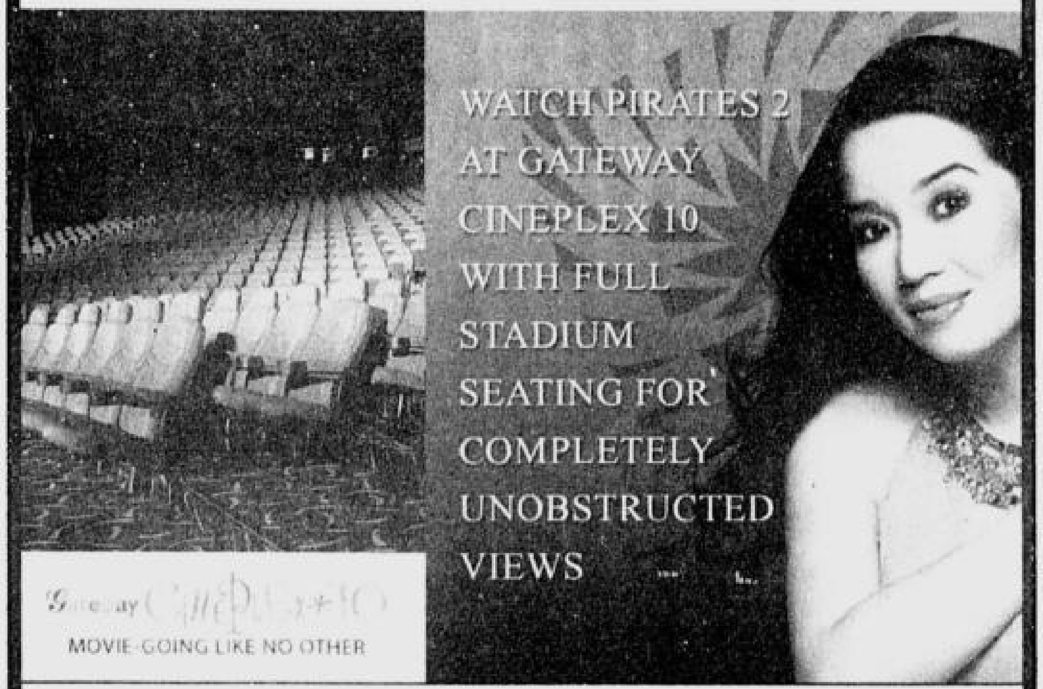

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12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
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12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9.30
LOVE WRECKED
2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40
THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3
2:20 / 2:40 / 5:00
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
11:25 / 12:00 / 12:35 / 1:10
2:25 / 3:00 / 3:35 / 4:10
5:25 / 6:00 / 6:35 / 7:10
8:25 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 10:10
THE LAKE HOUSE
7:20 / 9:30
PLATINUM CINEMA
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
SUPERMAN RETURNS
11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
11:00 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
BATAS MILITAR
12:05 R2 / 2:00 / 4 15 / 6:30 / 8:45
SEE NO EVIL
1:10 / 3:00 / 4:50 / 6:40 / 8:30
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Bryce Dallas How

From page A3-1

tress, **Tobey Maguire** and **Kirsten Dunst** form a love triangle in director **Sam Raimi's** third installment about the webbed superhero.

Kirsten was, in a way, responsible for Bryce's break. When Kirsten dropped out from "The Village," filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan offered the role to Bryce, a virtual unknown at the time. Playing a blind woman, Bryce earned glowing reviews. I personally felt she should have figured more prominently in the acting award derbies for that.

Now Bryce again stars in Night's fantasy-thriller "Lady in the Water." She portrays a narf, described in the production notes as "a nymph-like character," who is being stalked by vicious creatures determined to prevent her from going back home.

Make no mistake—*hindi siya si* Dyesebel.

Congratulations on your marriage. Have you been together for a long time?

Thank you. Yes, we've been together for about five and a half years. We planned the wedding for a year and a half.

Tell us about your husband.

He's a fantastic guy, way out of my league—a wonderful, supportive, incredible man.

You have a great example in your parents' marriage.

I agree. My parents have been married for 35 years. They were together five years before that. They met in high school, when they were both 16, and have remained committed to each other. I hope I can do that.

Tell us about your role in "Spider-Man 3."

I play a character called Gwen Stacy, part of a love triangle with Peter Parker and Mary Jane. It is exciting to bring to life a character that was so beloved in the comic books. This film is going to be the most complex and the darkest in this franchise.

Will you be flying?

Yes (laughs). I can say that only because there is a shot of me flying with Spider-Man that the New York Post has already published.

What do you like about "Spider-Man"?

I love how entertaining it is and the lessons it has for children.

Is it true that you cried when Night offered you the role in "Lady"?

I wasn't bawling or anything, but I was absolutely emotional. On the last day of shooting "The Village," he mentioned that to me—the concept for a new film—and said he was going to call it "Lady in the Water."

Six months later, I saw "The Village" for the first time. I was overwhelmed by the experience. My parents were there and his family was there. He turned to me and said, "I want you to play the lady in 'Lady in the Water.'" I felt it was just too much good fortune.

In "The Village," your character couldn't see. In this movie, your character rarely talks. Does playing a character who loses one of the senses intensify your acting?

What's so great about this story is that my character is able to communicate with so little. In a sense, it heightened the body language, every single little gesture.

I did the Shakespearean film "As You Like It" with **Kenneth Branagh**. Every single night while filming, I had to learn all those lines. I thought, one day, God will give me a part where I only have to listen. *Voila!* But it wasn't any easier. I had to focus a bit more.

How was your look for this movie achieved?

It was a process dictated by Night. He guided me through the process of physically and emotionally creating the character. I found that the physical life dictated the emotional life. I would get made up in the morning, look in the mirror and say, "Who is this creature? What does she feel like today?"

I spent three hours in the make-up trailer as they

ard ...

ainted my whole body hite. They made sure I was ater-proofed. I never realized how many freckles I had n the most bizarre places. nitially, we went a more lamorous route. And then ve made her seem almost ke an alien. We found this ice middle place where she vas an angel, not like a tereotypical religious icon, ut was someone mystical—translucent, fragile.

re your dad and Night riends?

They have become riends. I feel like a matchmaker. I told my dad, "You eed a friend who is a filmmaker." I also told Night hat.

ou talk about Night in lowing terms. But there re people who see him as ery arrogant.

When someone is really ood in something, it comes otally from them. Night's ilms are not a collaboration. ou can't say, "A lot of people vorked really hard together nd came up with this." This Night's project and no matter what the critics have said, udiences are drawn to his ovies.

He is incredibly humble. le has moments of insecurity and moments of tremenous honesty. A few weeks go, he was talking to me bout an episode of "Law & Order." He said it was so ood. He wondered, how hey can do this every week?

(E-mail the columnist at nepales_5585@ya- oo.com.)

Pauleen Luna JC de Vera and Boots Anson-Roa
Jason Abalos Iwa Moto Gian Carlos Franzen Fajardo Ketchup Eusebio Glaiza de Castro Katarina Perez

Angelica Panganiban as
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directed by Jeff Tan
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SHANG CINEPLEX

① PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
1.40, 4.50, 8.00

② PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
11.30, 2.40, 5.50, 9.00

③ SUPERMAN RETURNS
MTRCB GP
12.30, 3.35, 6:40, 9:50

④ PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
12.40, 3.50, 7.00, 10.10

PREMIERE THEATRE PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12.00, 3.10, 6.20, 9.30
MTRCB GP

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CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 10:30, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10 GP

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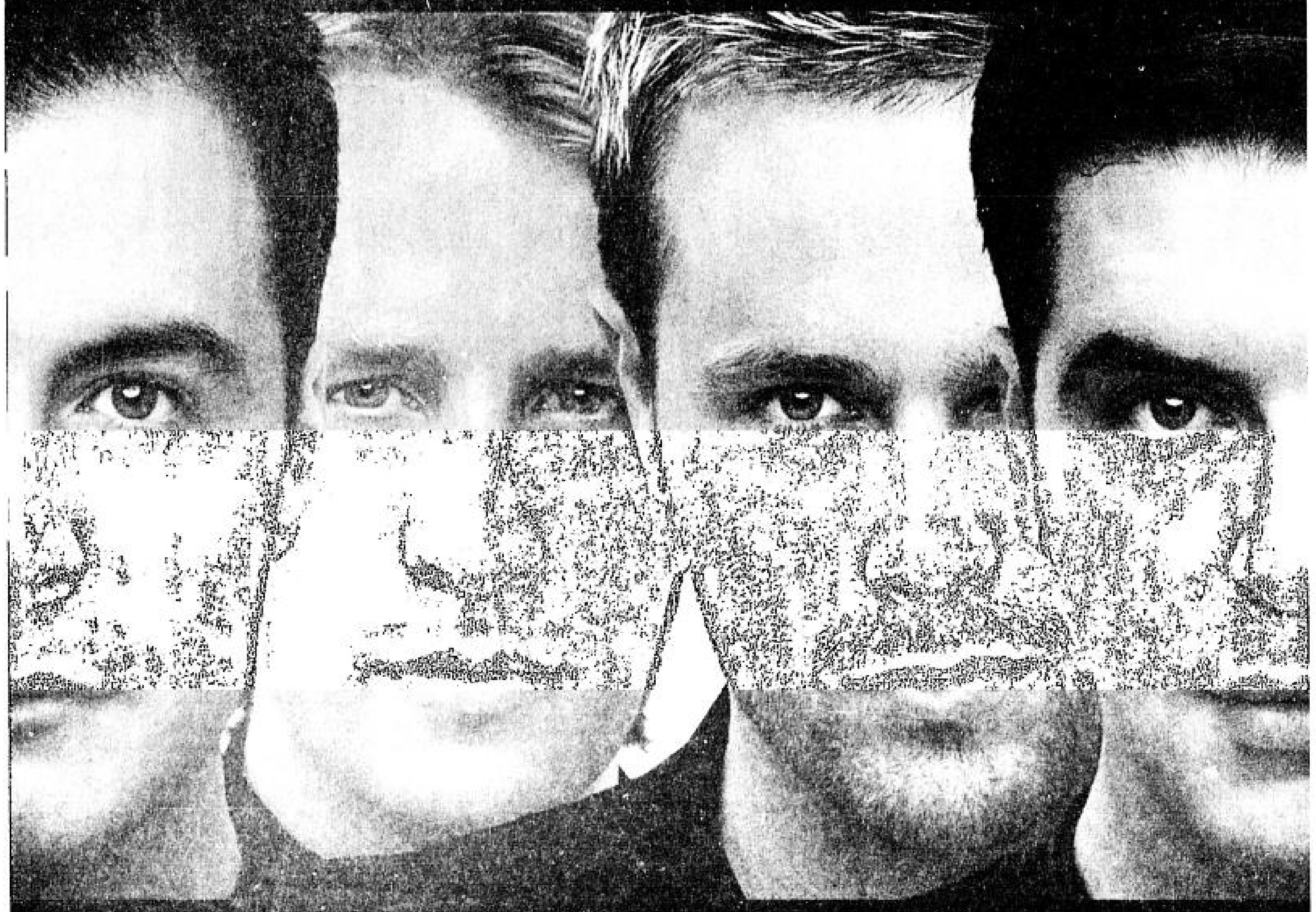

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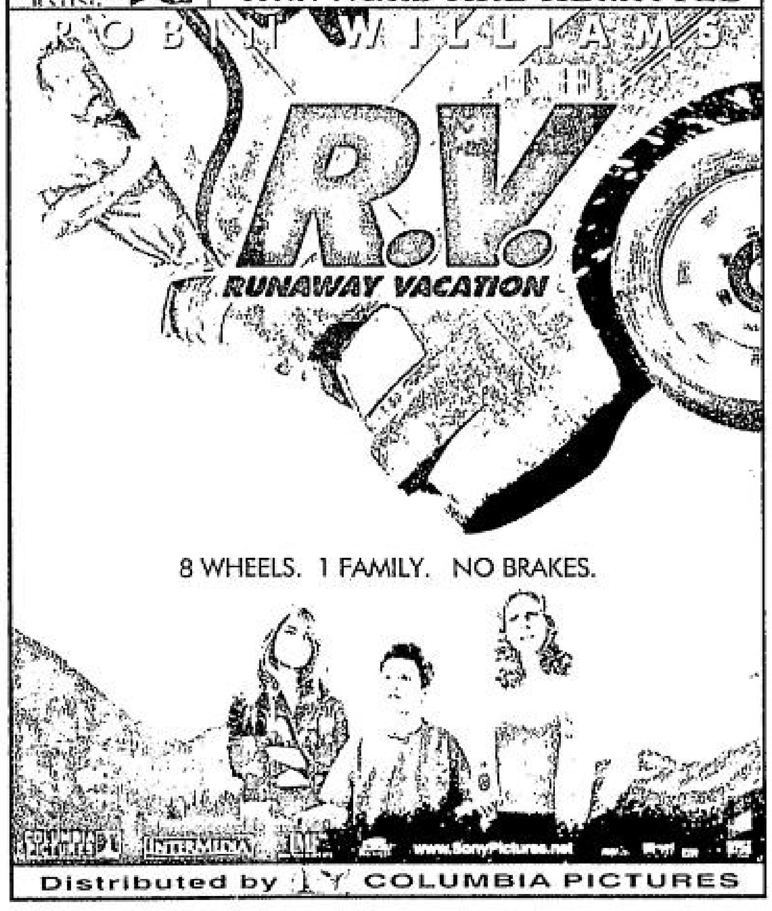

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
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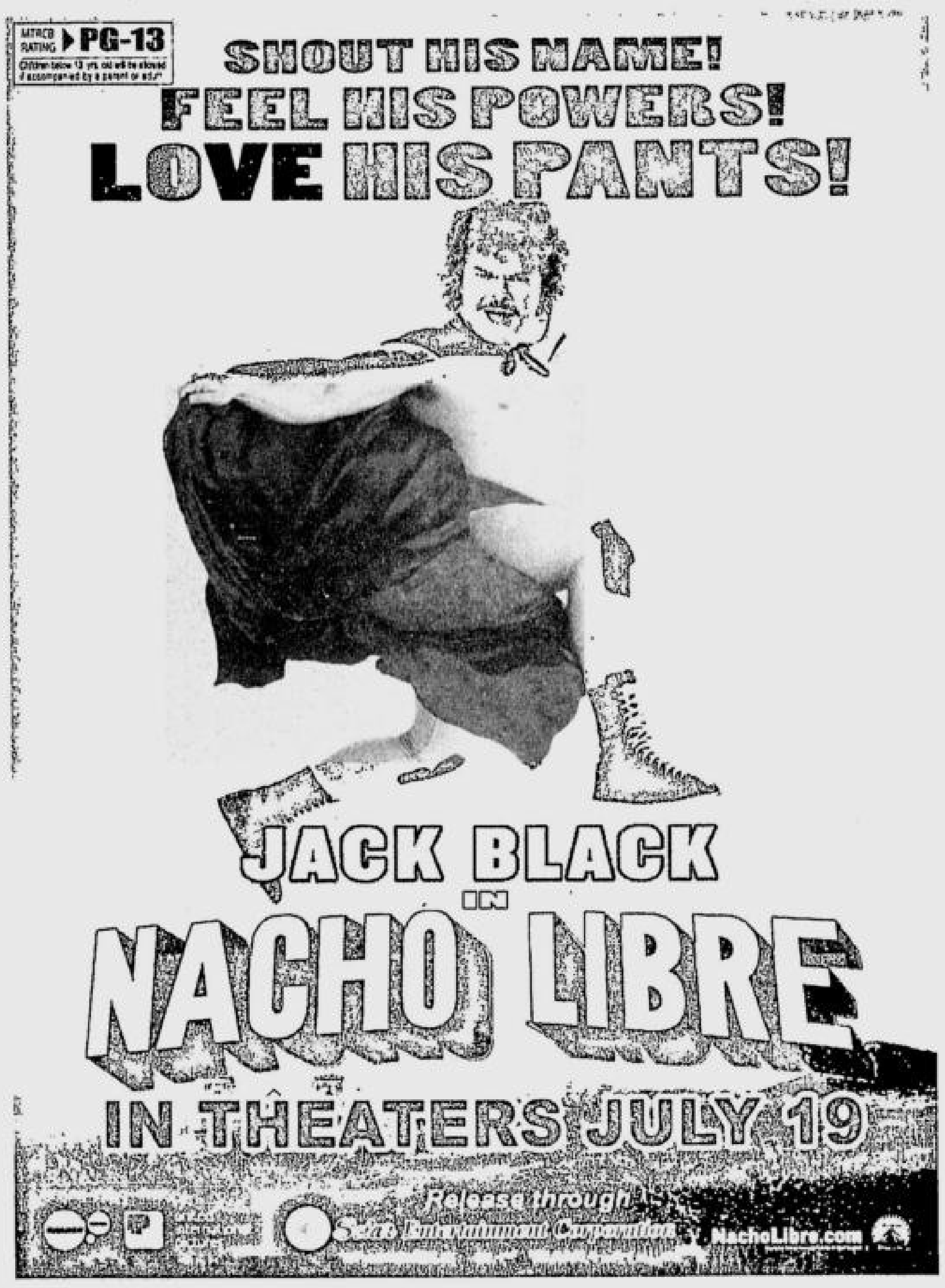
Slugged, kicked, hit with badminton racket

SO NEAR ... Johnny Depp was in Japan for the Tokyo premiere of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" early this week. Chris Martin was in Hong Kong with his band Coldplay! REUTERS



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

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FEEL HIS POWERS!
LOVE HIS PANTS!

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IN THEATERS JULY 19

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RUSHES

FROM OUR SMS INBOX: "WIFE OF (Son of a major action star) beat up—slugged, kicked and hit with a racket—a matron in a badminton court in Las Piñas. The victim is the daughter of an ambassador." Clues: The major action star also made the news, not so long ago, for beating up someone. And the son recently hosted a sports tournament to benefit children in a drug rehab program.

No to chick flick

Mother Lily is not having an easy time signing up male leads in her next movie patterned after "Desperate Housewives." Men refusing to take the back seat?

Mother's update: Richard Gomez and Jomari Yllana out; Alfred Vargas in.

"TF," Abbygale and a model

Fanny girls

Guess who signed up for—and finished—Fanny "TF" Serrano's last hair and makeup seminar?

Former Bb. Pilipinas Abbygale Arenas and supermodel Baba Parma, among many others.

TF is having two more seminars—one from July 21 to 23 and another from July 25 to 27 (call 925-5251). "Participants don't have to be from show biz," he says. "In fact, there were more non-celebs in the past three sessions."

Of course. Most stars would rather be attended to.

Yes, again

LOS ANGELES—Marriage has not been kind to supermodel Christie Brinkley. She and her fourth husband, Peter Cook, have separated after 10 years together, her publicist said on Wednesday. Brinkley, 52, was once married to Billy Joel. *Reuters*

AT RIGHT is an ice slide at the "Harbin Ice Lantern Festival" in Hong Kong earlier this week. Above, a ride that looks like a beehive at Beijing's new Happy Valley theme park, another one that's cashing in on the multi-million-dollar entertainment industry. AFP

Just between them

LOS ANGELES—Angelina Jolie will star as the widow of murdered Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in a new movie produced by Brad Pitt's company, distributor Paramount Vantage said on Thursday. *Reuters*

Un-simple girls

LOS ANGELES—It's been more than a year since they went from best buddies to bitter enemies, but Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie have agreed to do another season of "The Simple Life." The "celebutantes" will return for a fifth season of their series in 2007, on "E!" Channel. *Reuters*

Star voices

LOS ANGELES—DreamWorks Animation announced it would keep all the big stars for the voice roles of the third series "Shrek 3." The voice stars will include Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Rupert Everett, Julie Andrews and John Cleese—who all starred in "Shrek" and "Shrek 2." *AFP*

Guess who?

NEW YORK—Legendary British rock band The Who will launch its first worldwide tour in more than 20 years in September and is set to release its first studio album since 1982, the group announced on Thursday. Singer Roger Daltrey and guitarist/songwriter Pete Townshend, the surviving members of the hard-driving British foursome that burst onto the music scene in 1965, will open the tour on Sept. 12 in Philadelphia and perform across the US and Canada into December. *Reuters*

BACK ONSTAGE. Rolling Stones vocalist Mick Jagger, right, and guitarist Keith Richards at the opening of the band's "Bigger Band" European tour at Milan's San Siro soccer stadium in Milan this week. The tour was delayed after 62-year-old Richards fell off a tree. REUTERS

Kapuso, 56 na tayo!

ISA PONG KARANGALAN ANG PATULOY NA MANGUNA SA INYONG PUSO!

Kasabay po ng patuloy ninyong pagtangkilik,
ay patuloy rin po ang paglaki ng agwat ng ating ratings sa kabila!

JAN-JUN 2006 OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS
Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
GMA	18.3	17.7
ABS-CBN	13.7	11.9
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	4.6	⬆5.8

JAN-JUN 2006 OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS BY DAYPART
Mega Manila TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
Morning (6am - 12nn)	GMA	9.4	9.3
	ABS-CBN	6.5	5.7
	DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.9	⬆ 3.6
Afternoon (12nn - 6pm)	GMA	19.6	17.6
	ABS-CBN	13.9	11.8
	DIFF (GMA-ABS)	5.7	⬆ 5.8
Evening (6pm - 12mn)	GMA	25.7	26.2
	ABS-CBN	20.7	18.3
	DIFF (GMA-ABS)	5.0	⬆ 7.9

SOURCE: AGB NMR Phils. (Arianna)

15 OUT OF THE TOP 20 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA
2ND Quarter 2006

RANK	PROGRAMS	CHANNEL	RTG (%)
1	CAPTAIN BARBELL	GMA	40.1
2	MAJIKA	GMA	36.2
3	MY NAME IS KIM SAM SOON	GMA	36.1
4	ENCANTADIA PAG-IBIG HANGGANG WAKAS	GMA	35.4
5	JEWEL IN THE PALACE	GMA	34.5
6	I LUV NY	GMA	33.0
7	LOVE OF THE CONDOR HEROES	GMA	30.3
8	GULONG NG PALAD	ABS-CBN	29.9
9	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS YARI KA!	GMA	29.8
10	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA	28.7
11	PINOY MEETS WORLD	GMA	28.5
12	KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO	GMA	27.2
13 - 15	SA PILING MO	ABS-CBN	27.1
	BITUING WALANG NINGNING	ABS-CBN	27.1
	24 ORAS	GMA	27.1
16	KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	ABS-CBN	24.6
17	EAT BULAGA	GMA	24.2
18	PINOY BIG BROTHER TEEN EDITION	ABS-CBN	23.6
19 - 20	MEL & JOEY	GMA	23.5
	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	23.5

Note: Specials excluded

Maraming, maraming salamat sa patuloy na pagtangkilik at pagtitiwala, Kapuso!

GMA
Kapuso ng bawat Pilipino

IN THIS ISSUE

Calasiao's 'white gold' /B1

Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

He didn't make it to Everest... but his clothes did /B2

Franchising: Food is out, services in

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LEADING lights of the local franchising industry are all predicting a bright future for this way of doing business, once written off as the "tamad" (lazy) route to entrepreneurship.

Consider this little piece of statistic: According to the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), the number of franchised businesses has grown in the past few years from a mere 5 percent of all shops in the country, to an estimated 15 percent of local retail shops.

That means that three out of every 20 stores or establishments you will encounter along the typical street will be a franchise business, from only one out of every 20 establishments a few years ago.

This ratio will be even higher inside a shopping mall in this mall-crazy country, where as much as two-thirds of all tenants are franchisees.

One would think that this threefold growth in recent years would have already brought franchising to its plateau.

Not so, says the widely-acknowledged "father of Philippine franchising."

Speaking to the media in a press conference earlier this week, PFA chair emeritus Samie Lim encouraged aspiring businessmen to considering the franchise trade.

"The opportunities are there, and they are big," he said. "When people ask me, 'is it too late to get into franchising?' The answer is 'no' because we still have a lot of room for growth."

Lim feels that the local business scene has the potential to mimic the US retail industry where franchise businesses make up about 40 percent of all retail establishments in the consumer sector—a staggering two

FRANCHISING/ B2

There's a big business in every small one

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THERE ARE FUTURE JOLlibee Corp. and National Bookstores hidden in small businesses just waiting to be discovered.

This is the belief of the Philippine Franchise Association, an umbrella group of franchising companies, which is why it goes to great lengths to look for start-up companies to be featured in its annual franchise fair, which is running this year from July 14 to 17 at the World Trade Center.

Former PFA president Manuel Siggaoat tells the INQUIRER how just a few years ago, Reyes Haircutters was one of the new business concepts being "incubated" by the association.

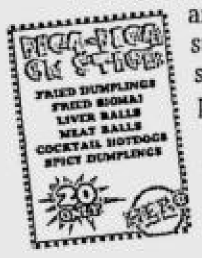
Today, Reyes Haircutters has over 100 branches all over the country and has even recently opened its first branch in the United Kingdom.

Siggaoat says he is confident that there are other concepts that will likely exhibit the same growth, especially those from the provinces.

For this year's show which will end today, businesses to be featured in the emerging concepts section come from the retail, food and services sectors.

In the food sector, there's the PotDog YummyYes Delights, Anak ng Siopao of the Cinco Holdings Corp., Rosing's Hopia, Hero Great Bites and the Highlanders Brown Rice Tea.

PotDog YummyYes Delights started in 2003 and offers fried snack foods, such as potato slices, crispy siomai, lobster balls and octopus tofu.



Hero Great Bites, on the other hand, started just last December 2005 and is out to conquer the processed meat industry with its own line of Hungarian sausages, *tapa, tocino, longganisa*, corned beef, sweet ham, hamburger patties and hotdogs.

Objects of Wood Inc. and Kaila banner this year's retail section.

Objects of Wood manufactures and exports high quality wood products, such as wood stands, displays for plates, jars, vases, bookends and small furniture pieces.

It started operations in 1986 with business geared toward the export sector. It was only recently that it has decided to more aggressively explore the local market.

Kaila, on the other hand, is into bags and accessories, and already has branches at Eastwood City, Riverbanks Center and Robinsons Metro East.

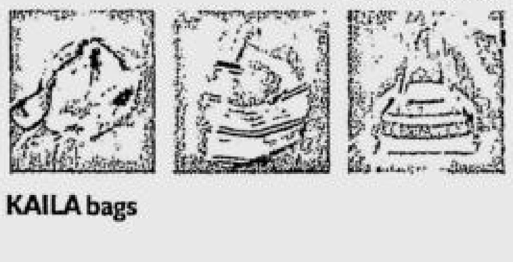
Like many businesses, Melanie Ong's Kaila started from her hobby of making trendy bags from the garage of her home.

Encouraged by the response from her family and friends, she decided to make a business out of her hobby.

Today, Ong intends to make Kaila the most popular line of bags for girls, young adults and women looking for a unique bag to add to their collection.

The PFA expects a boom in the services sector, and ideas continue to emerge.

THERE'S/ B2



KAILA bags

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Calasiao's 'white gold'

The cup-shaped, bite-sized, soft rice cakes put this town in the culinary map

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CALASIAO, PANGASINAN—What goes best with a steaming plate of *pancit guisado* (stir-fried noodles), a hot pot of chicken soup or a cup of native chocolate?

When you are in this central Pangasinan town, look for the Calasiao *puto*—that cup-shaped, bite-sized, soft rice cakes that almost melt in the mouth.

Calasiao's puto, described as the town's "white gold," has put this town in the country's culinary maps.

Several villages are involved in puto-making but Barangay Dinalaoan is considered the epicenter of production. At least 80 percent of households there are puto makers but no resident can recall anymore who started this traditional home industry.

Day and night, residents there churn out thousands of puto that would later find their way into breakfast and snack plates in the Ilocos and other areas.

Puto makers here will readily share their recipe to anyone interested, but no other town has copied the taste and consistency of the Calasiao puto, which sells for P45 a kilogram (about 80 pieces).

They say there is no secret in the production of the Calasiao puto but one maker says the old earthen jars where the semi-glutinous rice is fermented could be behind the taste and consistency of their product. No chemical additive is used in the fermentation process.

Puto makers say the industry has remained a family business in which the product is given a "personal touch."

From 2002 to 2003, the provincial government, through its livelihood program, assisted the puto makers by organizing them into a cooperative.

Gov. Victor Agbayani says a total of P2.3 million was loaned out to the cooperative. The amount has been repaid, he adds.

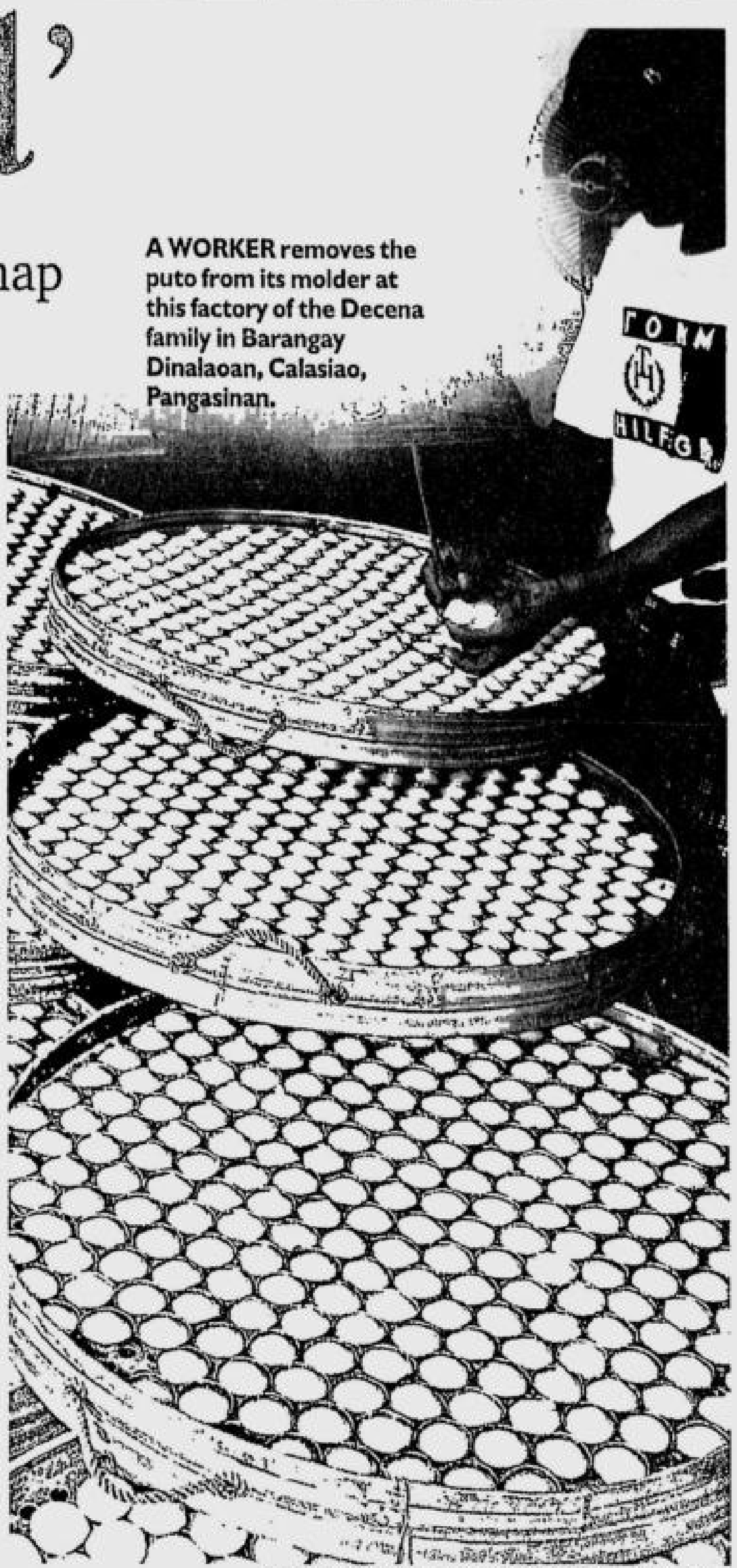
The local government of Calasiao built stalls in front of the town plaza where puto and other native delicacies like *bucayo* (sweetened coconut nuggets), *suman* (steamed sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves) and *kutsinta* (rice maker) are sold. The stalls are open 24/7 to cater to residents and tourists who would crave for the delicacy.

In December 2002, Mayor Roy Macanlalay and the local government staged a puto festival to market the town's product.

WORKER places grinded rice at the molder.

LADY workers at the puto factory prepare the packaging for the newly steamed puto ready for delivery.

THIS YOUNG lady helps in her family's puto business in Calasiao.


A WORKER removes the puto from its molder at this factory of the Decena family in Barangay Dinalaoan, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

He didn't make it to Everest. . .but his clothes did

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—LEVI Nayahangan, a member of the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition (FPMEE) may not have been chosen to reach the summit of Mt. Everest this year, but he saw a good opportunity to have his line of mountaineering apparel reach the top of the world.

One may see much bigger brands of mountaineering apparel (REI, North Face, Levi's, Timberland, Gap, Columbia, Patagonia, Nike and Adidas, among others) sponsoring climbers but there is also a chance that a Sherpa or a porter in a climb in the Himalayas may jut be wearing a "Lagalag."

This *kanto* (street corner) word, which means "wandering" or "wanderer," was made famous by the 1994 film, "Lagalag: The Eddie Fernandez Story," starring Rudy Fernandez as the matinee idol turned jailbird.

But it was the name that stuck to Nayahangan's mind when he resigned from his high-paying job in a Korean trading company to start his own business.

"'Lagalag' refers to the members of my generation who may be highly educated but have a wanderlust and great hunger for adventure," the 33-year-old University of the Philippines business administration graduate says.

Nayahangan may have officially climbed his first mountain when he was in high school in Ifugao, but as he says, "When you are born and raised in the Cordillera, you are climbing mountains all your life."

He joined the UP Mountaineers and is one of five UPM members in the Mt. Everest expedition. He is also one of two Cordillerans. Val Ramos of Bauko, Mountain Province, was injured in a taekwondo match and had to beg off from the Mt. Everest climb.

With "Lagalag," Nayahangan started his backyard industry in Rizal, designing and making pants, shorts, shirts and accessory bags using the same technology that the much bigger brands employ but at a much lower price.

His pants, for example, sell for about P800-P1,200, almost four times lower than the price of more popular mountaineering apparel. His short pants sell for P650-P750 apiece.

The "official" uniform of the FPMEE members is "Lagalag." Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata wore "Lagalag" on their way to Mt. Everest's summit and so did the other members who stayed at Base Camp in Nepal.

Nayahangan provided the 16 members who went to Nepal with their apparel for free.

"What we wore there, we later have to give them away to our Sherpas (mountain guides) to free our load so they are the first to wear them there," he says.

Nayahangan says he expects sales to grow steadily with continued exposure.

"Lagalag" is designed also for tropical use and is popular as casual clothing. They are lightweight, durable and with great ventilation, and moisture-wicking qualities, he says.

"I use synthetic fabrics because, unlike cotton, they don't absorb moisture which may cause hypothermia while you are up there," he says.

Nayahangan markets his apparel to sportswear stores in shopping malls. He has seven employees in his backyard factory in Rizal.

He can have a modest life on his earnings, he says, but money is not the point of it all.

He had worked for environmental nongovernment organizations like the World Wildlife Fund and has joined the FPMEE on its speaking tours throughout the country to advocate ecotourism and environmentalism.

Nayahangan says his business idol is Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, a $230-million company involved in top-quality outdoor goods. Chouinard, however, is also a mountaineer, surfer and fisher as well as an environmentalist who started the recycling of soda bottles as fabric.

Patagonia's biggest project is the Vote for Environment launched in 2004 in the Untied States, which called for environment-minded residents to vote for pro-environment candidates and issues.

Nayahangan says he also plans to expand his products and go on an environmental campaign.

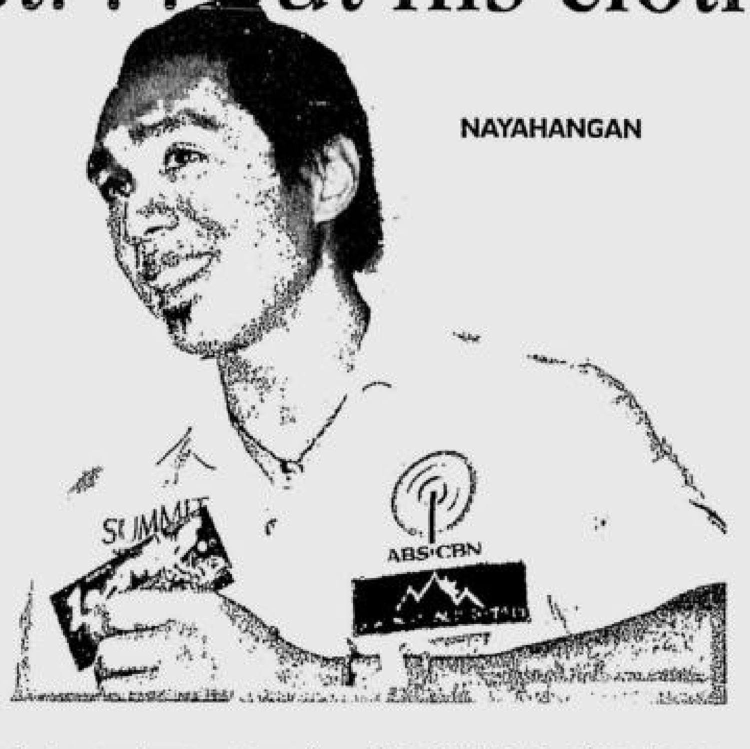
But as of now, his plan is still to climb Mt. Everest.

In May, Nayahangan was the FPMEE's official photographer as well as the motivational speaker, which is his part-time job back home.

He will be part of the 10-member team that will scale Mt. Everest in a "Unity Climb" next year.

Five of the expedition members will again tread the same southern route in Nepal that Oracion, Emata and Romi Garduce followed while the other five will trek the much harder northern route on the Tibet side. The team will include three women. The 10 members plan to converge at Everest's peak.

Nayahangan and the other members will, of course, be donning "Lagalag" on the top of the world. "I will also be bringing something from Ifugao," he says.


NAYAHANGAN

There's a big . . .

From page B1

There's Ang Susi Ko, which is into the key duplication business; Socialites Driving Institute, which wants to bring professional driving school services closer to the people, and Cardprints, which designs and prints its own line of wedding invitations.

Siggaoat says PFA reaches out to these companies and explains to them the benefits of opening up their business to franchising as part of its thrust to increase the number of Philippine franchisors.

He explains that the PFA has programs designed to cater to companies of all sizes.

For the small companies, PFA brings them to the show under the emerging concepts section to make them visible, especially if they are coming from outside Metro Manila.

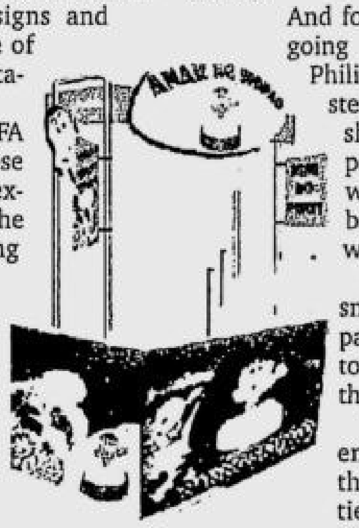
For medium-scale firms that already have working business models and perhaps even one to two franchisees, PFA encourages them to go to the franchise show to put them on their way to becoming national brands.

And for the large ones, going outside the Philippines is the next step, for them to show that Philippine firms have what it takes to break into the world market.

But it is the small ones that PFA particularly wants to bring out into the open.

To meet this end, Siggaoat says that the PFA has tied up with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry to identify at least three to five concepts from the regions that can be developed.

In this way, the PFA hopes to take part in the emergence of more Jollibee success stories.



ANAK ng Siopao

Franchising: Food is out, services in

From page B1

out of every five stores on the street.

Why is the Filipino business psyche attuned to it franchising, standing out among even the traditionally more entrepreneurial minds in the region like the Chinese or the Indians?

The franchising business involves the "selling" or "renting out" of a business' concept and brand to a third-party which will then operate the retail outlet in accordance with guidelines set by the original owners.

The franchisees' risks are reduced by riding on an established brand or product, while the franchisors' revenues are multiplied through the royalties paid to them.

In actual practice, the size spectrum of franchise businesses varies greatly from large restaurants and fast food chains like McDonald's and Jollibee to small carts situated in shopping malls or street corners.

The PFA—the umbrella organization of the country's franchisors and franchisees—says this is evidence of the potential of the business model, whether the businessman holds a franchise from a food chain, a fashion establishment, or a service business like a spa or a dry cleaning and laundry business.

"The challenge for the PFA is how to help its members keep up with global and local challenges amid growing intense competition," said PFA chair Alegria Bing S. Limjoco.

PFA is now urging prospective entrants into the franchising scene to consider sectors other than the food business—the traditional bread and butter of franchisers before the concept became hip.

"This area is already saturated," Lim said. "It has become mature."

He said the next hot business to be in—as far as franchisors and franchisees are concerned—is the service industry, especially businesses which leverage Filipinos' well-known warmth and hospitality.

Lim is particularly excited about the spa and health maintenance business which is now a $25-billion global industry.

"This is big business, and Filipinos can even use their strengths in 'hilot' (traditional Filipino therapeutic massage) in the franchising business," he said.

Lim also noted that opportunities exist for small and successful franchises to bring their success to a higher level.

"The key word that we're stressing is 'nationwide,'" he said, urging businesses to think big. "You have to be able to grow nationwide. If you can bridge that, there's no reason why you can't go international."

All these developments however have attracted parties with less-than-noble intentions.

Of late, the franchising industry has seen the proliferation of businesses offering "free franchises" to would-be investors willing to part with at least P10,000 as their "reservation fee."

Lim says that aspiring entrepreneurs should be wary of these "get-rich-quick" schemes (he refused to call them "scams" just yet).

In several cases, Lim said the PFA has received reports of investors losing their hard-earned reservation fees because the franchisor decides against awarding the "free franchise"—invariably for its own reasons stipulated in fine print—and forfeiting the investor's money.

"We have received a lot of complaints from people recently about these activities," he said.

The PFA chair emeritus lamented that many victims of this scheme are those who can ill-afford to fight a long drawn out legal battle, mainly because their only disposable resources are those which they already invested, and lost, in the "business proposition."

"They can't even afford a lawyer," he said, adding, "There are some people getting rich from a lot of P10,000 investments."

To help interested franchisees, Lim said they encourage them to seek the advice of PFA professionals, many of whom will be available for assistance during the organization's Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo from July 13-16 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

It pays to go after the premium market

Korean firm finds the mass market has become too crowded

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

IN 2003, SAMSUNG Electronics, one of the the largest Korean firms in the world, took a hard look at its markets.

The 37-year-old firm studied how their markets were moving and what were the potentials for growth in each.

"We saw that the mass market is there but everybody is there. Profits are low and competition is high," regional marketing director Edwin Koh recalled during the press meeting at the Samsung Digital Appliances Roadshow 2006. The Korean firm brought several dealers and journalists from the Asia-Pacific Region and Oceania to view the latest offerings of the firm in Seoul.

At the same time, Koh adds, "the lifestyles of the people are improving and the first step is to capitalize on this. The demand for high-end products is growing as disposable income increases."

The huge lower end market meantime provides a big base for product upgrades as their income go up.

With the realization that there was not much competitive edge to be achieved in the mass market what with its low entry barriers and stiff competition, Samsung changed its tack.

"Let's differentiate ourselves" was the top officials' line, said Koh.

And differentiate they did. They moved out of the mass market and targeted a new market—the the high-end or premium market.

"Samsung created a demand [for its products]," says Koh.

The move was logical because from the start the firm had placed research on its priority list. This enabled the firm to come up with more technologically advanced products. It also invested in design technology, creating for itself innovative and unique looking products that the premium market seeks.

The results?

Koh reports that the average price index of Samsung products went up, resulting in some of its products having the highest price tags.

To strengthen its leadership in the high-end market in Korea, Samsung created a new brand for its audio-visual products - PAVV and for its digital appliances—Hauzen.

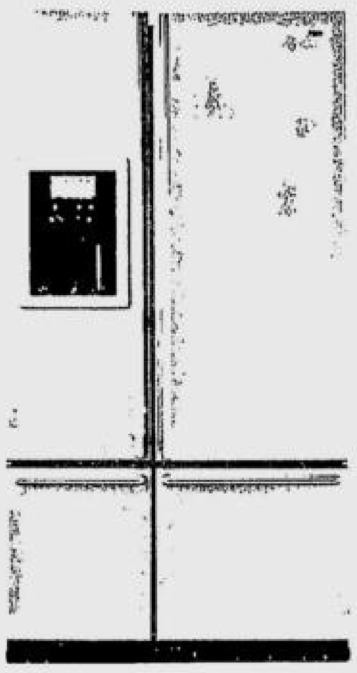
Koh claimed leadership in the premium market. He cites that while industry grew by 10 percent, Samsung's growth was 30 percent in the recent year.

"In 2004 we achieved premium leadership and in 2006 we extend our premium leadership with a 'purer living' tag"

Samsung's worldwide rank in terms of revenue among electronics firms in the world jumped to number 2 (behind Intel) since 2002 from seventh in 1997.

In the Philippines, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. president Spencer Shim said Samsung is number one in the side by side and no frost refrigerators.

Overall sales of Samsung in the Philippines grew by 30 percent in 2005 over 2004.



During the roadshow, Samsung unveiled four new innovative products.

The most unique was the Air Wash system for washing machines which does not need water and soap to wash clothes.

"The Air Wash system offers deodorizing, sterilizing and fabric reconditioning by blowing warm air into the fabric. Thanks to the hot air and physical power of the washers, unpleasant odors can now be removed in one touch. The Air Wash washing machine is ideal for hard to wash cushions, pillows, and other padding that can be infesting grounds for mites and ticks."

These washing machines will be in the local market by September.

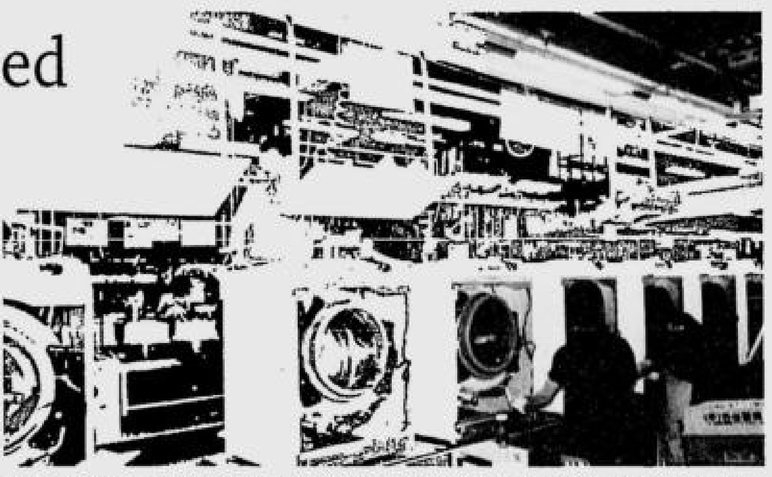
Another new technology that Samsung introduced was the Quatro cooling system for refrigerators. They created a ref with four doors that have individual temperature settings.

Koungduk Yang, refrigerator overseas sales and marketing manager of Samsung Electronics in Korea claimed the four cooling system will actually result in about 15 percent power savings for Koreans.

The goal of Samsung in the Philippines, says Shim, is to be number one in all the categories they are in.

This means they have to beat brands like Nokia for mobile phones, HP for IT, and Sony for audio visual and Panasonic for white goods.

"There are many competitors so our strategies are different to be number one in all. My direction is balance to be number one in each category. In some products we are already number one. The strategy is to be aggressive to overtake," stated Shim.



DIGITAL appliances plant in Gwanju, Korea. Other photos show the Air Wash washing machine and Quatro cooling ref

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OPPORTUNITIES

Wedding coordination course on

FEW JOBS OFFER AS MANY BENEFITS, FEW jobs can be as exciting, fun and rewarding as being a wedding coordinator or planner.

Rita Neri of Rita Neri Event Planners in cooperation with Assumption College offers its program on wedding coordination titled - Introduction to professional wedding coordination on August 10 to August 12 at the Mother Carmen Graduate School Center of Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village in Makati City.

This comprehensive 3-day course aims to educate and provide qualified individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a dedicated career professional in the field of wedding coordination. The course includes: overviews on event management and wedding coordination business, wedding budget / time line preparations, supplier requirements and negotiations, on the day work and preparation, client management, start-up business basics and dealing with ethical and moral issues. A Certificate of Attendance shall be given to those who have attended at least 2 complete days of the course.

For more information, call. 840-1897, 840-3359, 893-0534 or e-mail at giftcrft@pldtdsl.net , ritaneri_events@yahoo.com

Learn to make soap

LEARN THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW ON how to make different soap and start your own soap business at home. The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making to be held at the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Avenue, Ylanan St., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City. on July 29, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing. There will be a hands-on experience on how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap powder soap, car shampoo. Bonus courses are liquid bleach, fabric softener, tile and bowl cleaner . Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. For questions, call 952-40-28, 436-78-26, 952-29-34, 951-29-66, and 913-65-51.

MasterCard Worldwide

MASTERCARD International, is introducing a new corporate name, MasterCard Worldwide. The company is also unveiling a new corporate signature and adopting a new corporate tagline, The Heart of Commerce™.

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JULY 27, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • CARIG PLAZA HOTEL, Daang Maharlika Hway, Santiago City, Isabela

ISABELA

ANGADANAN

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 768.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 374.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 685,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,019.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 1405, Canangan
Min Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 3 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 25,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-C Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 4 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 40,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-B Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price 450,000.00

AURORA

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Prov'l. Rd. & Cacal Sts., Bagon Lints, Sta. Rita
Min Bid Price 455,000.00

BUGALLON NORTE

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,327.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Casuga St., Ramon
Min Bid Price 285,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 7 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,100.00 sqm.
Lot 2219-A. Barrio Of Cubag
Min Bid Price 74,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 1-J-2-B Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 485,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 125,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 328.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-6-C Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 551,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 382.00 sqm.
Lot 19, Sillawit,
Min Bid Price : 87,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 450.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 420.00 sqm.
Lot 20-E-6-E-1 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 8,406,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 260.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 423,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2000.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-E, Lot B-5-F-3-S-5,Nat'L Road, Prenza
Min Bid Price : 6,843,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,497.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
(Formerly Minante)
Min Bid Price : 2,246,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,629.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 285,000.00

LOT 17 - VACANT
Lot Area: 354.00 sqm.
Lot 44 Centro
Min Bid Price : 73,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 3-H-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 524,000.00

DELFIN ALBANO

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 223.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 77.00 sqm.
Lot 599-B Along Provincial Rd., San Jose
Min Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,105.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Rizal
Min Bid Price : 282,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,920.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 210.00 sqm.
Lot 600-A & 600-B Along Provincial Road, San Jose
Min Bid Price 1,621,000.00

ECHAGUE

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 13, E.M. Pinzon Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price . 240,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Subdivision, San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Subdivision, San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 396.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Subd., San Fabian Echague
Min Bid Price 412,000.00

FRIAR LANDS ESTATE

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 640.00 sqm.
Lot 424-C, Friar Lands Estate
Min Bid Price 164,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 28 - VACANT
Lot Area: 308.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Blk 3 Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 233.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 191.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 7 P. Apostol St., Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price : 458,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 503.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 102.00 sqm.
Lot 7139-A Alinguigan 2nd
Min Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 224+250=474 sqm.
Floor Area: 88.00 sqm.
Lot 3& 4, Blk 30 Rubia St., Greenheights Subd., Brgy. Alibagu
Min Bid Price : 699,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 123.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 237.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2 Capitol Ave., Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price 1,500,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 33 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,916.00 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'L Road, Centro 1
Min Bid Price : 1,010,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 752.00 sqm.
Lot 3903. San Jose Norte
Min Bid Price : 76,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 400.00 sqm.
Lot 2686-C. Abut
Min Bid Price 70,000.00

ROXAS

LOT 36 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 5,070.00 sqm.
Lo T5797-B, Sotero Nuesa
Min Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Site, Bantug
Min Bid Price : 218,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Site. Bantug
Min Bid Price 215,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Subd., Bantug
Min Bid Price 140,000.00

SAN AGUSTIN

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,826.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 119.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A & Lot 2-B-2 Along Provincial Road. Masaya Sur
Min Bid Price 620,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 29 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price 128,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 20,000.00 sqm.
Lot 3342-B, Brgy Eden
Min Bid Price : 385,000.00

LOT 44 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 324.00 sqm.
Lot 7.Blk 4 Dist 3
Min Bid Price : 165,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 178.00 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price . 76,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 27 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price : 105,000.00

SAN MATEO

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 290.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 56.00 sqm.
Lot 5455-B National Road. Marasat Pequeño
Min Bid Price 555,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 48 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,349.00 sqm.
Lot 482-F-4, Mabini
Min Bid Price . 1,890,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Patul
Min Bid Price : 360,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Patul
Min Bid Price . 360,000.00

STA. MARIA

LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,084.00 sqm.
Floor Area 168.00 sqm.
Lot 257 District 1
Min Bid Price 495,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 52 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,057.00 sqm.
Floor Area 202.00 sqm.
Lot 1545 Nat'L Rd. Barrio Lingaling
Min Bid Price : 2,700,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 249.00 sqm.
Lot 1860-B, Pascaran. District II
Min Bid Price . 101,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,968.00 sqm.
Lot 2663 Nat'L Rd Brgy. Lanna
Min Bid Price : 476,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT
Lot Area: 222.00 sqm.
Lot 2412-C San Pedro
Min Bid Price : 114,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,263.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Rd., Brgy Kalabaza, Aurora.
Min Bid Price : 1,535,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,102.50 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. San Ramon, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 365,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 319.75 sqm.
Lot 3508-H, Provincial Rd.,Ballesteros. Aurora
Min Bid Price : 155,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Lot 2929-A,Prov'L Rd., Sta. Rosa, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 785,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 346.66 sqm.
Floor Area: 207.00 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguan. Burgos
Min Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,044.00 sqm.
Lot 4479 Brgy. Rd. Raniag, Burgos
Min Bid Price : 370,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,643.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy. Muñoz East,Roxas,
Min Bid Price : 675,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,032.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Nat'L. Rd., Brgy. Bantug (Formerly Vira), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 4,890,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 9,030.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 179.00 sqm.
Lot 3886-A,B,D &F, Provincial Rd., Basilio, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 2,315,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11, Vira(Now Bantug). Roxas
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area 376.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
& G. Sts., Vira, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 895,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,163.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 76.00 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy. Cabantan, San Manuel
Min Bid Price : 1,085,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-H,Calaocan(Now Brgy.1),San Mateo
Min Bid Price : 1,805,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-G,Calaocan(Now Brgy.1),San Mateo
Min Bid Price : 1,805,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,451.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 160.00 sqm.
Lots 4-K & 4-L Brgy. Rd. Cabantan, San Miguel
Min Bid Price . 835,000.00

CAUAYAN CITY

LOT71 - VACANT LOT
LA: 6,365.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B,Tagaran
Min Bid Price : 1,571,250.00

LOT72 - VACANT LOT
LA: 500.00 sqm.
Lot A-3, San Fermin
Min Bid Price 46,000.00

SANTIAGO CITY

LOT73 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT74 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 3,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT75 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 1,Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT76 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT77 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT78 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT79 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT80 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT81 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 130,000.00

LOT82 - VACANT LOT
LA: 167.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT83 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT84 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT85 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT86 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT87 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT88 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1. Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes. San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT89 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT90 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT91 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT92 - VACANT LOT
LA: 224.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes. San Andres
Min Bid Price : 175,000.00

LOT93 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT94 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT95 - VACANT LOT
LA: 215.00 sqm.
Lot 12, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 170,000.00

LOT96 - VACANT LOT
LA: 184.00 sqm.
Lot 13, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price . 145,000.00

LOT97 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 14, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 142,000.00

LOT98 - VACANT LOT
LA: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 15, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT99 - VACANT LOT
LA: 172.00 sqm.
Lot 16, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT100 - VACANT LOT
LA: 219.00 sqm.
Lot 17, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 175,000.00

LOT101 - VACANT LOT
LA: 186.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 10 Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 145,000.00

LOT102 - VACANT LOT
LA: 174.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 11 Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

- GUARANTEED FINANCING-FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS
- 10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
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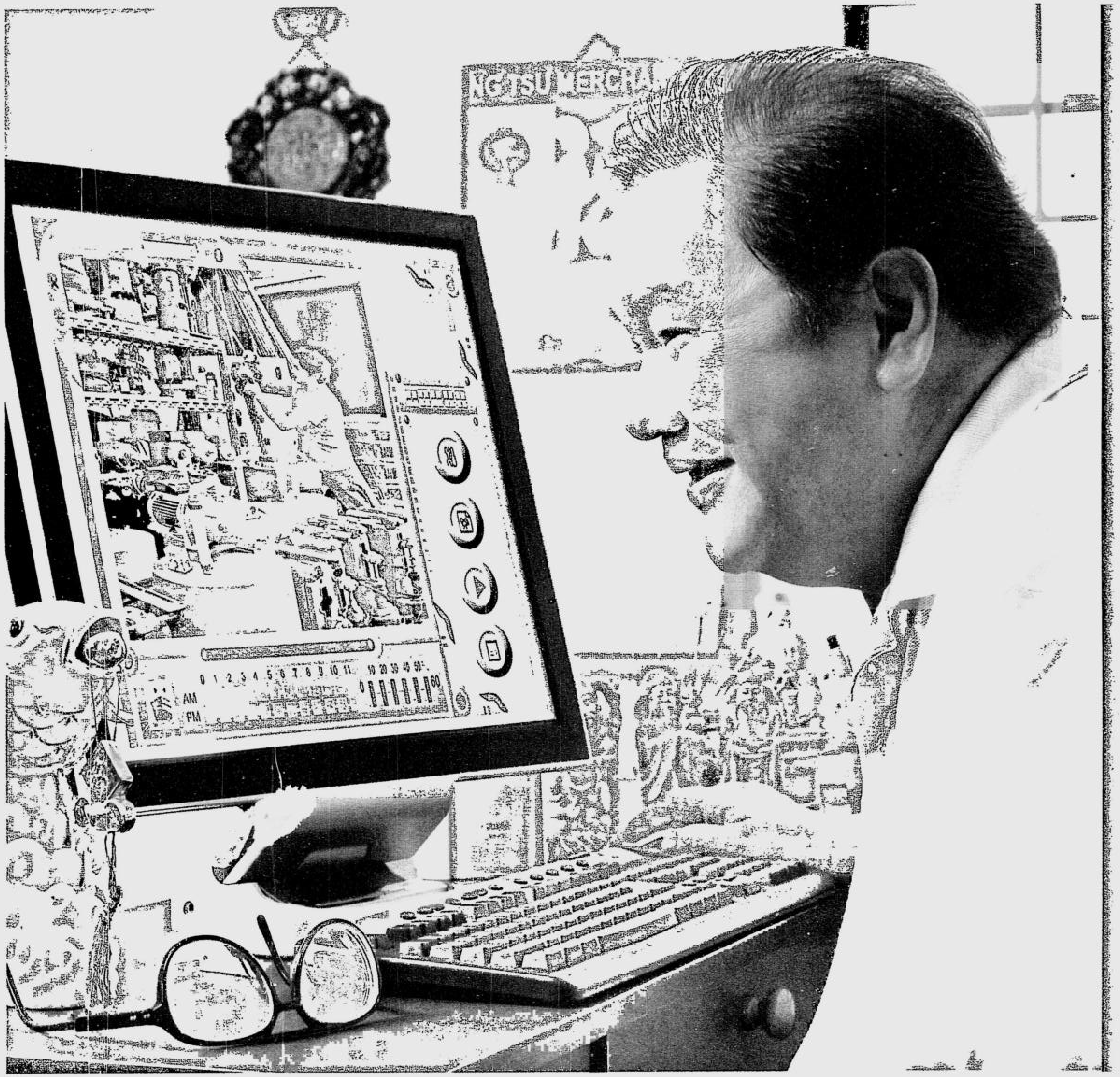

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PICPA Celebrates 40th ACCOUNTANCY WEEK

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants as you hold your Accountancy Week Celebration.

This gathering with the theme "Quest for Quality and Excellence." Brings together public accountants to discuss ways on how to enhance and uplift the standards of your profession. By promoting quality and excellence among your members and stakeholders and by generating effective ideas and action plans for the fulfillment of your worthy goals, you are doing a great service to our people and country.

I laud your continuing commitment to uphold integrity, professional excellence, innovation, discipline and social responsibility among your members. I call on you to carry on with your aspirations and help build a strong Republic. Together, let us beat the odds.

More power and Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I am delighted to offer my warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants on your Accountancy Week Celebration. I commend PICPA as a leader in the accountancy profession. PICPA continues to exercise impressive influence in the accountancy industry. It has seized the initiative in updating its members on the latest developments in legislation and other vital matters that bear directly on the accounting profession.

As Chairwoman of the Professional Regulation Commission, I am pleased that PICPA chooses to organize and celebrate Accountancy Week with an event such as this convention. The variety of sports, social and technical activities that will be featured demonstrate PICPAs awareness of the need for balance between their professional and personal lives of our accountants.

The theme for this years celebration "Quest for Quality and Excellence" echoes the PRCs own advocacy to promote the highest ethical standards for the accounting and other professions. It is a source of satisfaction here to note PICPAs own concern with these twin values.

It is encouraging to see how PICPA continues to enshrine the values of integrity, social responsibility, competence, objectivity and independence among their members through their Code of Ethics. Honest independent-minded certified public accountants promote transparency and therefore public trust in government. We are confident that in this convention these values will again be given prominence. I wish you the best in this important collegial event.

Mabuhay!

LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO
Chairperson

In behalf of the Board of Accountancy (BOA), I would like to convey our warmest greetings and commendations to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) on its celebration of the 2006 Accountancy Week with the theme "Quest for Quality and Excellence".

The world is no longer what it used to be. With the advent of the new economy and globalization, there are greater demands for efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness. The pace of the change has never been this fast. As wave after wave of advancements come our way, we must learn to rise at the crest and not at the bottom. As the business world's most trusted financial advisors, it becomes obligatory for Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) to be technically competent. We have the responsibility of going beyond keeping and managing financial records. We have to be effective, honorable, and upright handlers of the very powerful technological tools of the new age. Mastery over modernization is the only way we could stay afloat and achieve the extraordinary. We must always remain reliable, truthful and honest practitioners, for doing so, we are able to maintain the faith and the confidence of those whom we serve. May this occasion serve as a good opportunity to address such concerns.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful and successful Accountancy Week.

EUGENE T. MATEO
BOA - Chairman

I am very much elated that through the years, we remain to be cohesive, strong and active in our purpose of advancing our profession. As we gather on July 17-22, 2006 to celebrate the Accountancy Week, we will once again prove that we are bent in pursuing this cause and in transforming the agenda of this year's celebration into giant meaningful leaps towards the realization of the mission and vision of PICPA, and into solid gains for the members, the Institute, the profession and the country as a whole.

My sincerest commendations to the officers and members of the AWC Committee, Government Association of Certified Public Accountants, Association of Certified Public Accountant in Commerce and Industry, Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education, Association of Certified Public Accountants in Public Practice, Metro Manila Region and its year's celebration. This is another opportunity for great learning and fellowship.

The field of accountancy is experiencing sweeping changes as it metamorphoses into a knowledge-based profession. The next generation of accountants will be business advisers, corporate financiers and visionary strategists with advanced technical abilities. Thus, this year, we will anchor our efforts on the theme "Quest for Quality and Excellence" because your present PICPA Board wants to nurture and sustain this culture among us that we can meet this new order. And even if the business landscape keeps on changing and ushering in new business ideas, models, concepts and paradigms, we can withstand and even stand apart from the rest if we espouse this culture and breathe through it.

Let's us all have productive and memorable accountancy week. Let's seize every opportunity to learn and socialize with our colleagues during this week-long celebration.

MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!

MANUEL M. PASCUAL
PICPA National President

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA)

IN 2004 THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION was at the crossroads of change from various developments or occurrences that have occurred in the local and international scene. From the setbacks brought about by the events of Enron, the adoption by the Philippines of the International Accounting Standards after long using the U.S. GAAP, the ripple effect of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in the United Sates in the Philippines, the election in the Philippines, the release of the World Bank Report On Standards and Codes reports, the General Agreement on Trade and Services and World Trade Organization, it was a very spectacular year, yet there were other events which brought a ray of hope to the profession, among which is RA 9298 otherwise known as the Accountancy Act of 2004, which imposed and required the PICPA to change in order to support its members and their interest.

In the year 2006, two years down the road from 2004, the effects and benefits could be seen in the Accountancy profession, the standards imposed on the profession have changed, as accountability of accounting professionals have greatly increased, good governance is now part and parcel of both public and private organizations, the profession has been preparing to face the world through Mutual Recognition Agreements. The PICPA has likewise had its own set of changes, among which is the amendments made to the PICPA By-laws last November 2005 to comply with the provisions of RA 9298 which was made primarily to better interest of the Accountancy Profession and its members.

The Revised PICPA Organizational Structure

PICPA is a duly registered non-stock nonprofit corporation composed of 4 major geographical area offices covering Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and National Capital Region. Each geographical area office is made up of the various regional offices contained within the particular geographical area, and such regional offices are composed of the various local chapters on provincial, city or municipal level. These different levels of offices, namely: Geographical Area Offices, Regional Office, Chapters and the general membership form one and the same PICPA organization. At the helm of the organization is the National Office which is supported by a national; Secretariat to support the services rendered to the members of the organization

PHILIPPINES/ B2-6

MISSION

PICPA is the globally recognized and integrated national organization of Filipino CPAs in all sectors.

It's mission is to enhance the integrity of the Accountancy profession, serve the best interest of its members, and other stakeholders and contribute to the attainment of the country's national objective.

These can be achieved through a responsive organizational structure, committed leadership, effective professional development programs abreast with state of the art technology, strict implementation of professional ethics, promotion of high standards of accounting education and advocacy of and participation in relevant national issues.

VISION

To be strong dynamic and unified professional organization of highly-respected, world class and socially committed certified public accountants worthy of esteem of the Filipino people.

One of the world's most powerful women opens PICPA's week long celebration

BEING THE HEAD OF THE SM DEPARTMENT Stores, the flagship of the SM group of companies, is no easy job for Ms. Teresita Sy-Coson. Ms. Coson has been the driving force that enables this No. 1 chain of retail stores in the Philippines to rise above competition and sustain market leadership. Greater quality of merchandise, value for money and excellent service are greatly imposed in all aspects of its operations from merchandising, store operations and even financial services.

Over the years, evolution and innovations push their group of companies toward their accelerated growths in their respective line or industry. They never cease to meet the challenges of the present times by continuously drawing inspiration from a wide array of market groups and globalization.

Making it to the top will not happen overnight and to maintain an already significant market leadership is twice or even thrice as hard but Ms. Coson proves that one should never rest on his laurels. For the 5th consecutive year, she has been on the list of Fortune Magazine's annual list of the 50 most powerful women in business around the world. She is the 46th most powerful woman outside America.

She is the only Filipina who made it to the said Fortune's list.

Ms. Tessie Sy-Coson

2006 PICPA ACCOUNTANCY WEEK ROSTER OF SPEAKERS

Hon. Romulo L. Neri
NEDA
Director General

Jo Ma Concepcion III
Presidential Adviser-Entrepeneurship

Carlos R. Alindada
Chairman
FRSC

Andrew Ho
Product Manager
FIS - Asia Pacific

Alexander Cabrera
Partner
Isla Lipana & Co.

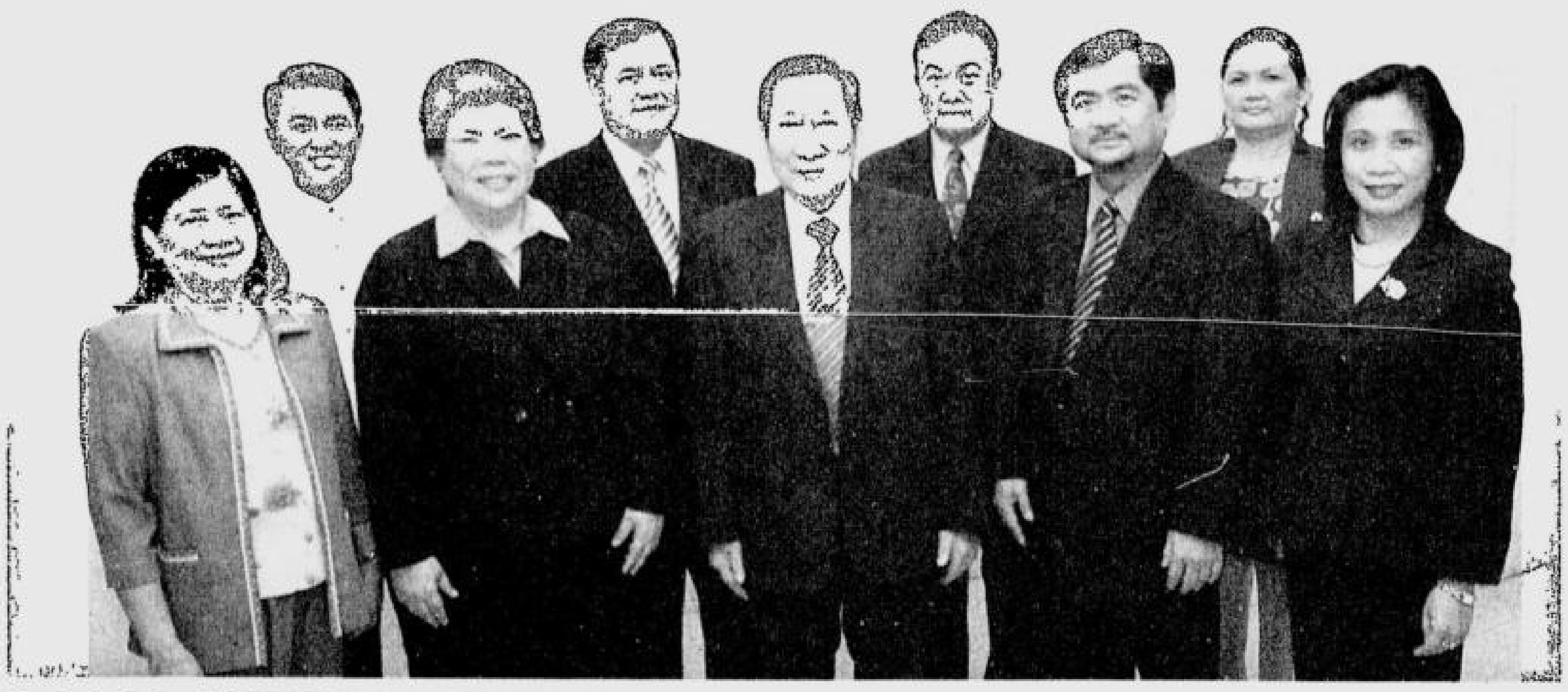
Eugene T. Mateo
BOA - Chairman

(Standing L - R) Donato P. Danao, Asst. Treasurer and Regional Director for MMla; Dominador A. Barrion, Regional Director for Southern Luzon; Redentor G. Roque, Regional Director for Central Luzon; Amor T. Palma, Regional Director for Northern Mindanao; Ma. Asuncion M. Golez, Regional Director for Western Visayas; Ricardo Y. Danlag, VP for Education and Regional Director for Eastern Visayas, Jaime P. Naranjo, VP for Government and Sectoral Director for Government; Rodelio C. Acosta, Regional Director for MMla; Albert Paul C. Uy, Regional Director for MMla

(Seating L -R) Nelia E. Tumarao, Asst. Secretary and Regional Director for Southern Mindanao; Melita B. Estrellado, Regional Director for Bicol ; Edna T. Barrera, Regional Director for Southern Luzon ; Antonio P. Tecson, Treasurer and Chairman of MMla; Manuel M. Pascual, National President and Regional Director for Eastern Visayas; Andres R. Cabuyadao, EVP and Regional Director for Northern Luzon; Lorenda P. Delmo, Regional Director for Southern Mindanao; Estrella B. Andres, Regional Director for Western Visayas; Josefe Sorrera-Ty, VP for Public Practice and Regional Director for Northern Mindanao

Metro Manila Region

"... are committed in bringing our profession to new avenues and challenges of learning, deliver relevant, timely and quality seminars and extend all out value-added services to our members".



(At the Back from left) RODELIO C. ACOSTA - Vice Chair for Operations, GEORGE V. VILLARUZ- Ex-Officio, ALBERT PAUL C. UY, Vice Chair for Finance, DIVINIA Z. JUGUETA - President, Northern Metro Manila Chapter, (Front from left) VIOLETA J. JOSEF - President, Southern Metro Manila Chapter, ROSARIO MA. Q. YU - President, Eastern Metro Manila Chapter & Treasurer MMRC, ANTONIO P. TECSON - Chair, Metro Manila Regional Council, DONATO DANAO - Vice Chair for Membership, CYNTHIA A. MOLINA - Secretary, MMR Council

With the passage of the 2004 Accountancy Law and approval of the amended Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) and By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), the entire Philippine Archipelago is now divided into four (4) geographical areas namely Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila and is represented by nine (9) regions and four (4) sectors organized nationwide representing the various sectoral interest, namely public practice, commerce and industry, education and government service.

As one of the geographical areas, Metro Manila is governed by the Geographical Area Office composed of four (4) National Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, four (4) Chapter Presidents and sixteen (16) Regional Sectoral Representatives effective July 1, 2006. Under the Metro Manila Geographical Area is the PICPA Metro Manila Region (MMR) organized into four (4) chapters based on the location of all chartered cities and municipalities comprising the region, namely:

NORTHERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER
Kaloocan City, Valenzuela City,
Navotas and Malabon

WESTERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER
Manila, San Juan and Mandaluyong City

EASTERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER
Quezon City, Pasig City, Marikina City and parts of Province of Rizal
(Antipolo City, the Municipalities of Rodriguez, San
Mateo, and Cainta.)

SOUTHERN METRO MANILA CHAPTER
Makati City, Pasay City, Parañaque City, Las Piñas City, Pateros,
Taguig and Muntinlupa City.

Message from the Chairman
ANTONIO P. TECSON

It is with great pride that the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants celebrates the Accountancy Week to commemorate its glorious achievements.

The tremendously successful accomplishments of the Institute's officers and members, should be given recognition and honor every year during the Accountancy Week.

As we embark into this week long activities, we should not forget the fact that our profession is a growing and continuing entity that needs a lot of improvement by the use of modern technology to meet the ever challenging and changing world in today's complex globalization.

Thus, while I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Institute of CPAs for this significant event, let me also urge all celebrants to keep on achieving the good work as you have been accomplishing all these years to make this body responding excellently to the challenges of our profession.

"It has taken the lead in making breakthroughs in the conduct of CPE..."

The Geographical Area Office, the Regional Councils and the local Chapter Boards are governed under uniform rules prescribed by the National Board of Directors consistent with the existing rules of the Professional Regulation Commission.

As the leading region with the highest number of active CPAs, PICPA MMR accounts for a major portion of the total membership. It has taken the lead in making breakthroughs in the conduct of continuing professional education by providing quality and timely topics of seminars in local and national conferences. The region is the first to initiate international conferences that contributed in making its Filipino CPA participants to be global CPAs in the following conferences held in the ASEAN Region:

- 1st PICPA MMR International Conference in Windsor Suites, Bangkok on May 20-23, 2004 with the theme "A Global Challenge to Accounting and Auditing"
- 2nd PICPA MMR International Conference in New World Hotel Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on May 19-22, 2005 with the theme: "Global Alliance of Accounting Professionals."

PICPA MMR and the four (4) Chapters consistently delivered its social involvement projects such as medical and dental mission, donate a book, plant a tree project to our less fortunate countrymen.

It has continuously implemented adopt-a-scholar project to eighty (80) Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Accountancy scholars until the graduate, created a task force on membership growth to tackle the increase and retention of membership.

It will continually extend various services to its members such as personal accident insurance, assistance in the renewal of PRC ID and accreditation to various government agencies, instant ID upon activation and/or renewal of membership and many more...

As the region takes the lead in facing the enormous challenges of laying out the groundwork in complying with the mandatory requirements of the New Accountancy Law within the next three (3) years, the 2006-2007 officers are committed in bringing our profession to new avenues and challenges of learning, deliver relevant, timely and quality seminars and extend all out value-added services to our members.

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DELGADO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • STA. ROSA • SUCAT • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA

CPA's in Commerce & Industry

Message from PICPA Commerce & Industry Sector Chairperson
MA. OPHELIA LI. CAMINA

I would like to congratulate the Accountancy Week Committee for a very successful event

The challenges for the CPA today are indeed overwhelming. The CFO has become not only the corporate officer responsible for the financial risks of the business but has expanded to being a strategic business partner of the CEO and operational chiefs. The CFO is increasingly part of the team whose responsibility is to drive the business forward.

With this transformation comes the need for excellence and quality. This year's theme, "Quest for Quality and Excellence" is a reminder to us that the pursuit of excellence is a continuing process and never ending goal.

Message from the ACPACI President
LIZA GLODOVIZA

It is my pleasure to congratulate all my fellow accountants taking part in this Accountancy Week celebration, for continuously thriving in this profession despite the stringent regulatory requirements and standards.

In a decade-long marathon of finance transformation, I believe that we have the edge to evolve as strategic advisers because of our analytical and business skills, our being a multi-disciplined professionals and stewards and our continuing pursuit of personal and professional development.

This year's ACPACI's theme: "Grooming the CFO's of Tomorrow" and PICPA's theme: "Quest for Excellence and Quality" will guide us to unlearn, learn and relearn new methods and metrics which in turn will help us face new challenges affecting the entire business environment.

The opportunities offered by modern technology and complex compliance requirements, both from local and global perspectives, will pave the way for a more sophisticated learning process which will greatly enhance the value of our accounting profession.

The challenge is up and our roles as Comptrollers, Finance Executives and Advisers in our respective companies and businesses are crucial in contributing to the economic progress of our country.

May our Creator continue to be with us and make us worthy stewards of His riches and glory. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

'ACPACI Seeks to Upgrade Professional Development of CPAs in Commerce and Industry'

In addition ACPACI aims to...

- Promote advancement of the accounting profession in the fields of commerce and industry through research, seminars, discussions and dynamic exchange of knowledge amongst its members;
- Assist members in addressing common problems in accounting information systems, business finance, administration and management;
- Promote high professionalism and adherence to established ethical standards in the performance of services and responsibilities;
- Maintain effective liaison with the members of other sectoral organizations;
- Assist and cooperate with the Board of Accountancy in the attainment of its objectives.

2006 ACPACI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
(Standing L to R) Julian M. Tecson, Lita Aguirre, Pacita B. Castro, Corazon S. Rey , Edna L. Constantino, Divina J. Tua, Cynthia A. Campos, Gregoria A. Guillermo, Josephine P. Magno, Bennette D. Consolacion. (Seated L to R) Ma. Corazon D. Bautista, Simeona R. De Guzman, Wilhelmina G. Cuico, Liza S. Glodoviza, Cecilia R. Patricio, Rebecca R. Arago

Mission Statement

We are a cohesive group of Certified Public Accountants belonging to the commerce and industry sector. We are sworn to provide quality professional, financial services directed to the attainment of sound and effective business decisions.

We are a dynamic organization of individuals--

- That keep abreast of developments in accountancy
- That share knowledge, skills and benefits with interested parties.
- That seek the common good for the welfare of all.
- We are one institution that builds expertise,

We will--

- Attract, develop, and retain high-potential CPAs
- Provide continuing programs for the members
- Create an environment of learning, social relevance and fellowship.

In March 1973, fifteen (15) individuals sought to create an institutional forum focused in the pursuit to common professional interest to public accountants. To address a common goal, they established the Association to Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) with the founding member as the first set of directors and officers.

Through the years, membership increased to about two hundred seventy four (274) committed members composed of Comptrollers, Finance Officers and other executives affiliated with top corporations.

Today, ACPACI has become a truly cohesive group of professionals in the Commerce and Industry sector sworn to provide quality financial and allied services directed to attaining effective business decisions. It now maintains active participation with other sectoral organizations in the accounting profession-the Association of CPAs in Public Practice (ACPAPP), the Government Association of CPAs (GACPA), the Association of CPAs in Education (ACPAE)- and is a dynamic member of the national organization of CPAs, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

2006 Philippine Accountancy Week Committee

Message from the Chairperson
MS. LITA AGUIRRE

It is with great pleasure that we extend our heartfelt greetings to the entire PICPA Family, as we celebrate the 2006 Philippine Accountancy Week.

On behalf of the 2006 Accountancy Week Committee, we thank the outgoing and incoming PICPA National Board of Directors, the Government Association of CPAs, the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry, the Association of CPAs in Education, the Association of CPAs in Public Practice, the National Sectoral Directors, the Metro Manila Region and its chapters and all the other Regions and Chapters, as well as our sponsors for the cooperation and support that they have extended to the Committee in ensuring the success of this week-long celebration. Once again, we are all together in pursuing the objectives that we have set out to achieve for this year's accountancy week celebration. This only manifests that for many years, PICPANs are united in realizing the Institute's mission and vision.

Exhibiting this great team spirit and shared aims inspired by last year's theme "get on... Move on...", PICPANs will be ushered to greater heights by our theme "Quest for Quality and Excellence". Focusing on this theme, the 2006 ANC will have technical sessions that are geared towards improving and enhancing the capabilities of the Filipino CPAs, keeping them attuned and responsive to the changing times. Sports, social and fellowship activities will also be held to strengthen the bond of unity among the members.

May God, Who is the source of all wisdom, knowledge and success, continue to favor us all with His grace and mercy. And may His guidance be PICPA's abiding inspiration in our enduring quest to champion the highest ideals of the accounting profession.

God bless us all!

2006 PHILIPPINE ACCOUNTANCY WEEK COMMITTEE
(At the back L to R) Gerry Sanvictores, Ruperth Somera, Vic Mamalateo, Ricky Lim. (Seated L to R) Mars Morales, Cecille Patricio, Aida Apostol, Lita Aguirre - Chairperson, Zeny Alcantara, Beth Paguio, Bobby Gallardo.

A Brief History about PICPA

PICPA WAS FOUNDED IN NOVEMBER 1929 with the following incorporators: Enrique Caguiat, Santiago dela Cruz, Francisco Dalupan, Jaime Hernandez, Felipe Ollada, Ramon del Rosario, Antonio Sanchez, Jose Torres, Artemio Tulio, Clemente Uson and Jesus Zulueta. The first president of the Institute was W.W. Larkin who likewise had the distinction of being the holder of CPA Certificate No. I.

On October 6, 1973, PICPA was awarded Certificate of Accreditation No. 6 under Presidential Decree No. 223, by then Chairman Eric Nubla of the Professional Regulation Commission. This accreditation of PICPA, as the bonafide professional organization of CPAs, initiated the scheme of integration of all the CPAs and CPA groups in the country.

This integration of the Accountancy Profession was carried out under PRC resolution No. 106 dated July 12, 1984 as amended by Resolution No. 142 issued on March 4, 1987. Through the work of PICPA and its officers through the ensuing years, the integration was declared accomplished on December 2, 1988 by PRC Commissioner Julio B. Francia.

On July 2, 1999, the then President Corazon C. Aquino, through Proclamation No. 607 declared the fourth week of July of each year as the Accountancy Week, again recognizing the importance of the Accountancy Profession as inextricably linked to national development and to the goals and problems of the national and local government.

CPA's in Education

Mission Statement

"Development of globally competent professional accountants through excellent Accounting Education"

(Standing L to R): Alfredo Lindon F. Berbano, Director; Aphat C. Martinez, Jr., Treasurer; Samuel F. Villacampa, 3rd VP; Jose M. Paglinawan, Jr., Director. (Seated L to R): Erwin Vincent G. Alcala, Ex -Officio; Ma. Concepcion Y. Lupisan, 1st VP; Asser S. Tamayo, National President; Nenita S. Robles, Director

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Message from the PICPA Education Sector Chairperson MARIETTA B. SORIO

Welcome to the 2006 Accountancy Week Celebration on July 16-22, 2006.

The theme this year focuses on "Quest for Quality and Excellence" and in celebration, various plans are outlined such as technical sessions, sports events and social activities to provide all PICPANs opportunity to participate. The technical sessions will enhance our understanding on current developments and changes in the accounting profession. The sports events and social activities are the means to bring us together in harmony for camaraderie and teamwork as well as the chance to renew old friendships and build new ones.

"Quest for Quality and Excellence" for this year's theme is very fitting. As CPAs we find ourselves preparing and meeting the challenges brought about by globalization - the fast pace of change is very well felt. We must continue to improve ourselves to ensure our global competitiveness, which we must pursue with dedication and determination.

We also invite all CPAs in the academe to meet these challenges in preparation for our would-be CPAs to find their rightful place where higher demands for effectiveness and competence are expected. Accounting students should be equipped wit the knowledge and skills needed in a global environment in which employers and clients operate.

Mabuhay !

Message from the ACPAE President ASSER TAMAYO

It is with great pleasure that we join fellow accountants in celebrating Accountancy week with the theme: "Quest for Quality and Excellence".

As educators , we are entrusted the future of the accountancy profession. We stand at the rampart in molding the minds of young people who want to be accountants. We are the ones they see first and their impression of us may have lasting impact on how they see accountancy as a profession.

The theme this year is very timely because new development in accounting and auditing demand stricter standards. We are challenged to understand these critical changes fast so we can clearly communicate them to our students. The time we put to this determines the quality and the excellence of our teaching.

To quote: "Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives." We can only achieve quality when we commit ourselves to these.

As for excellence, we have to define what we want to accomplish in this life. We must see ourselves as not only molders of young minds but as builders of a nation as well. As Charles Gore once said: "God does not want us to do extraordinary things; He wants us to do ordinary things extraordinarily well."

The quest for quality and excellence is never ending. It starts the day we passed the CPA licensure examination but does not end there. It goes with us in whatever arena of the accounting practice we choose to go into.

May God in His infinite wisdom continue to bless us and prosper our profession.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Collossians 3:23 (NIV)

The Association of Certified Public Accountants in Education (ACPAE) started from an idea of forming a sector group to attend the teachers' needs. This assertion was done through a manifesto signed by around a hundred educators at the Centro Escolar University in Manila on May 4, 1972.

On February 12, 1973, ACPAE was formally incorporated with Dean Pascasio S. Banaria of the Far Eastern University-Manila as its president. In 1976, when Dean Banaria was appointed to the Board of Accountancy, an election ensued wherein Dean Manuel A. Reyes of the University of Santo Tomas won the presidency. He held such post until 1977.

In 1978, Prof. Marcelino S. Banaria assumed the presidency and handed the stewardship of ACPAE until 1982, In 1983, the Association was under the care of Dean Violeta V. Vicente of De La Salle University, Manila. The leadership was subsequently assumed by Dean Erlinda C. Pefianco of University of the East the following year. After Dean Pefianco's term, Feliciano Roque took over in 1985 and for the years 1987 to 1992, ACPAE was under the leadership of Prof. Dolores Banaria and Prof. Marcelino Banaria. In 1993 ACPAE's presidency was assumed by Prof. Felisa "Lola" Bertol. She was succeeded by Dean Danilo Principe in 1994. Dean Principe served as president of the Association until 1996. In 1997, the leadership was turned over to Dr. Raul Addatu of the Philippine School of Business and Administration in Quezon City which he held until 1998.

In 1999 to 2000, Prof. Franklin Agamat took over. In 2001, the presidency was transferred to Dr. Gloria T. Baysa of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. In 2002, she transferred the leadership to Dr. Mariano Lerin of San Carlos University. The following year, Dean Marieta Sorio of the University of Pangasinan assumed the presidency . She was succeeded by Prof. Rhamir Dalioan of PSBA - Quezon City. In 2005, ACPAE was under the care of Prof. Erwin Alcala of St.Paul's School of Business. Presently, Prof. Asser Tamayo of RESA Review School is leading the Association as its president.

CPA's in Public Practice

Message from the Public Practice Sector Chairperson
ARNEL F. DE JESUS

The Accountancy Week celebration, particularly the Public Practice Sector Day on the 20th of July, is punctuated by technical sessions that deal with international standards and legislation directly affecting our profession from 16-21 July is a red-letter week in every Philippine CPA's calendar. The Week celebrates the various programs, activities, and achievements capped by in-depth technical sessions that, collectively, enhance the stature of our profession as well as encourage the collegial fraternity among accounting and audit practitioners from all over the country.

In the Public Practice Sector, this year's action theme, "Quest for Quality and Excellence" underscores our sector's goal to be relevant in the marketplace.

ACPAPP's relevance to the overall observance of Accountancy week is underscored by the prevalence of issues directly affecting our practice sector, particularly the evolving technical environment buoyed by the continuing need to apprise ourselves of the profession's developments in terms of a new legislation as well as international standards. Let us all attend the technical sessions and roundtable discussions during our Week and benefit from this singular offering of relevant and stimulating topics by well-known experts and practitioners in public practice.

Congratulations to all!

Message from the ACPAPP President
JEROME ANTONIO B. CONSTANTINO

It gives me such immense joy to welcome all the attendees to this year's Accountancy Week Celebration as we gather together this July 17 to 21, 2006 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila to benefit from the various activities and programs as well as fellowship and camaraderie during this significant occasion.

This year's chosen theme "Quest for Quality and Excellence", reflects our commitment to Professional Excellence, adherence to ethical standards and improve competencies and quality of services. It further emphasizes our obligation to discharge professional responsibilities to the best of our ability with concern for the best interest of those for whom the services are performed and consistent with the profession's responsibility to the Public and stakeholders. This gathering serves as a perfect venue to renew our commitment.

As we uphold our adherence to ethical standards and professional excellence, ultimately, our profession fully benefits, as well as the business sector and our Nation as a whole.

In addition, I am sincerely pleased and elated that the committees of the Public Practice Sector of PICPA and Association of CPA's Public Practice (ACPAPP) worked harmoniously together and left "no stone unturned" to offer each and every attendee a valuable learning and memorable experience during the ACAPP Day on July 20, 2006.

In our "Quest for Quality and Excellence," we should continue to work closer together in promoting the interests and meeting the professional needs of the entire Accounting Profession and its membership.

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) together with the other accounting sectors will commemorate its 40th Accountancy Week Celebration on July 16 to 21, 2006. The venue of the weeklong affair will be at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

The ACPAPP Day set on July 20, 2006 will surely be a very busy day for all the participants for there will be three technical sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. The highlight of the whole day affair will be the presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award to a most deserving certified public accountant.

The celebration will not be successful if the "most important people" of the event will not be present, everyone is an m.i.p. and your presence will surely add vivacity that will complete the celebration of this very significant event.

THE 2006 ACPAPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Standing L-R) Grace L. Morfe, Prospera D. Punsalan, Melissa S. Delgado, Judith V. Lopez, Evely L. Chun Peng, Emily L. Cailles Lo, Arlyn S. Villanueva, Amelita Ileto-Sibayan (Sitting L-R) Jessie C. Carpio, Jerome Antonio B. Constantino, Reginald C. Nery, Dioscoro O. Odsinada

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CPA's in Government

Message from the PICPA Government Sector Chairperson
JAIME P. NARANJO

The quest for quality and excellence, as the theme of our celebration entails, is a reverie that every accountant is morally bound to possess. Often, their manifestations may easily be separately concluded but it is rather complicated and a tall order to simultaneously achieve. Nevertheless, I believe that people who strive to do their best using their extreme capacity in their profession establish what quality and excellent service is. In like manner, accountants are guided by the ultimate goal, that is , to provide a service beyond what is usual and customary in the field. They do their utmost to make the notion of quality and excellence more tangible and comprehensible in defining it as a crucial elements of success.

For these reasons, I am pleased to convey my heartfelt greetings as we celebrate the Accountancy Week. This is indeed an appropriate event for collectively demonstrating our continuing quest for quality and excellence under the auspices of our renowned umbrella organization. We are here because we realize that high quality services combined with organizational excellence serve the launching pad to business success. Let this be a challenge to all of us that this affair be not just a celebration of what has been accomplished, but of what is more to achieve.

Message from the GACPA President
DELIA L. BERNARDO

It is a distinct privilege to greet all my colleagues in the Philippine Association of Certified Public Accountants on the occasion of the 2006 Accountancy Week.

This year's theme "Quest for Quality and Excellence" is a challenge as it is a constant reminder to all of us to give our best in everything we do. To pursue excellence is synonymous to raising our profession another step higher. By doing so we will further cement the accounting sector's niche in the business industry as an instrument of truth, transparency and ethical administration.

The journey towards excellence, however, would always have to start within our selves. This would entail pursuing efforts that will help us focus on professional improvement; enhancing our skills as well as developing further our capabilities to perform our functions as accountants. The varied activities planned out for the Accountancy Week will definitely pave the way for professional enhancement. I am confident that, as in the past years, the PICPA Accountancy Week will be successful and interesting, not to mention beneficial to all of us engaged in this profession.

On behalf of the Government Association of CPAs, I congratulate the PICPA for successfully convening the celebration. May this year's Accountancy Week be truly fruitful and rewarding.

The Government Association of Certified Public Accountants (GACPA) was the first sectoral association organized in the country. It is an organization of accounting professionals individually working in various government agencies nationwide. It was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on February 18, 1972. GACPA is now the biggest sectoral organization of CPAs in the country.

GACPA'S Objectives

It aims to continuously uphold and promote the highest professional and ethical standards among CPAs in the Government Service through a healthy exchange of ideas and experience among themselves and their counterparts in the private sector.

It also aspires to foster good relation among members and develop and improve the accounting practice as well as the fiscal management and administration to benefit the members and ultimately the public which they serve.

Together, the officer and members of GACPA will continue to forge productive undertakings for the attainment of the visions of the country.

GACPA 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Standing from left: Catalino A. Ranario Jr., Director; Emmie M. Mendoza, Treasurer; Atty. Sheila U. Villa, VP for External Affairs; Delia L. Bernardo GACPA National President; Republic of the Phils. Vice President Noli de Castro, AsCom Jaime P. Naranjo, Executive Vice President; Lualhati C. Abesamis, Secretary;. Antonio L. Gopez, Asst. Secretary; Eugenio C. Payongayong, PRO; Antonio P. Retrato, Director; Atty. Lito Q. Martin, Director; Carol S. Tolentino, Director.

GACPA was organized as part of an overall plan to strengthen the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) which was founded in 1923. In 1972, as preparations were being made for the observance of the 50th Anniversary or Golden Jubilee of the accounting profession on the following year (1973), a Commission in Integration was created by the Presidential Proclamation. Said Commission of the board of Accountancy, was charged with the responsibility of mapping out the plans for the celebration.

The Commission realized that after more than four decades of existence, PICPA had in its rolls barely 20% of its potential membership. The Commission then decide to organize sectoral associations which would be more effective in drawing CPAs into membership. It was widely recognized that by then, CPAs has drifted from the field of public accounting as originally conceived in the accountancy law creating the title "Certified Public Accountants" into allied fields namely: Private or management accounting education, CPAs in these other fields were generally reluctant to join PICPA which was identified as open for CPAs in public service.

Consequently, it was agreed to form CPA associations for those engaged in the major areas of accounting practice. The formation of ACPAPP for CPAs in Public practice was deferred since PICPA could still serve the purpose.

GACPA was then registered with the SEC by eleven Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) from various government agencies who initially comprised the Association's Board of Directors. Soon after the number of members of the board of Directors was increased from 11 to 15. These incorporators formed the first board of Directors and elected among themselves the charter Officer, viz: Cecilio L. Dizon, COA, President; Luis P. Vera, OIC, Exec. Vice President; Leonardo L. Cabanero, BIR, VP-Internal Affairs; Nonilon S. rajano, SSS , VP-External Affairs; Rosalina Cajucom, PNB Secretary; Lourdes C. Reyes, DEC, Treasurer; Gervacio Obles, BPTWC, Auditor Trudon Abella, ASW, P.R.O.; Pascasio S. Banaria, COA, Director; Alberto Dominguez, COA, Director; Ernesto Gozar, COA, Director ; Leon F. Guzman, DBP, Director; Hermogenes P. Pobre, DOJ, Director; Lourdes T. Sepidoza, CB, Director.

GACPA is now the biggest sectoral organization of CPAs in the country

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The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

From page B2-1

The National Office is under the management of officers elected by the members of the Board themselves; headed by the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice-President for Public Practice, Vice-President for Commerce and Industry, Vice-President for Education/ Academe, Vice-President for Government (these positions took over the position of Vice-President for Professional Development, because of the emphasis on the four sectors of the profession.), the Secretary, the Treasurer. Annually, the membership votes for the 25 members of the Board, 21 from the nine regions (including the rotating director, who is given the function to support the region and the sector from which the national president covers), 4 from the four sectors. It should be noted that under the present structure, the national directors from the regions likewise support the four sectors of the profession thereby giving equal representation to the National Board by region and by sector. Regional-Sectoral Directors are elected by region and by sector; four from Metro Manila (National Capital Region) and two from each of the remaining regions with an additional Regional Sectoral Director coming from the region and sector from which the National President comes from (Rotating Director). The Sectoral directors form additional support for the Sector needs on a national perspective. The President is rotated among the regional-sectoral directors from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao as well as the four sectors of the profession, thereby ensuring equal representation of the regions and sectors.

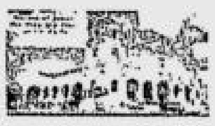
The four sectors in the PICPA membership: namely, public practice, commerce & industry, education/academe, government. The four geographical areas are composed of Luzon, (containing the four regions of Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol) Visayas, (containing the two regions of Eastern and Western Visayas) Mindanao, (containing the two regions of Northern and Southern Mindanao) and Metro Manila.

The four sectors in the PICPA membership: namely, public practice, commerce & industry, education/academe, government

PICPA Accountancy Week

July 16 to 22, 2006

OPENING DAY
July 16, 2006 (Sunday)

Time	Activities	Venue
8am	Thanksgiving Mass	Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life 
9am	Breakfast	
	Accounting Fun Quiz	
	GACPA Golf Tournament	Intramuros Golf Club
1pm	MMR Sports Tournament	Pearl Plaza, Paranaque City

OPENING PLENARY/PICPA MMR
July 17, 2006 (Monday)

Time	Activities	Venue
	Exhibit Opening	INTERCONTINENTAL Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City
8am	Opening Plenary	
	Keynote Address - Tessie Sy-Coson	
PICPA NAT'L BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTATION		
	President's Message	
	Presentation: National Board of Directors	
10am	Oathtaking: National Committee Chairpersons	
METRO MANILA REGION INDUCTION RITES		
11am	Oathtaking 2006-2007 Metro Manila Regional Council Officers	
	Presentation of Honorary Life Member Award	
1pm	*Technical Session 1* "A Solution to Budgeting / Planning Financial Consolidation" *Technical Session 2* "The Benefits of Computerized Accounting System" *Technical Session 3* "Tax Implications on the New Accounting Standards"	
6pm	Fashion Show (by invitation)	SM MAKATI

COMMERCE &INDUSTRY SECTOR/

ASSOCIATION OF CPAs IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
July 18, 2006 (Tuesday)

Time	Activities	Venue
10am	General Membership Meeting Keynote Address - Jóse Ma. A. Concepcion III	INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City
1pm	*Technical Session 1* - "Business Intelligence" - "Is your Business People Ready"	
	Technical Session 2 "PAS/FRS – Tax Forum"	

EDUCATION SECTOR/

ASSOCIATION OF CPAs IN EDUCATION
July 19, 2006 (Wednesday)

Time	Activities	Venue
9.30am	*Technical Session 1* "The Making of a Good Teacher" *Technical Session 2* « The CPA Board Exam Results: A Statistical Analysis"	INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA Bahia Room, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City
12nn	Luncheon Meeting and Induction Ceremonies	
2pm	*Technical Session 3* "Current Developments and Gray Areas in Financial Accounting and Reporting"	

PUBLIC PRACTICE SECTOR/

ASSOCIATION OF CPAs IN PUBLIC PRACTICE
July 20, 2006 (Thursday)

Time	Activities	Venue
9am	*Technical Session 1* "Creation of an Independent Monitoring Board" *Technical Session 2* "IFRS vs. Tax Accounting"	INTERCONTINENTAL Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City
12nn	Luncheon Meeting – "Wellness in the Workplace"	
1pm	*Technical Session 3* "Salient Provisions of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRAs) *Technical Session 4* "IFRS Implementation Experience from the Eyes of the Regulator" *Technical Session 5* "Fraud Detection and the CPA when Fraud is Right Under Your Nose" *Technical Session 6* "Quickbooks Professional Advisors Program"	

GOVERNMENT SECTOR/

GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF CPAs
July 21, 2006 (Friday)

Time	Activities	Venue
8.30am	*Technical Session 1* "Tax Updates for Government Accountants"	INTERCONTINENTAL Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City
	Keynote Address - Hon. Romulo L. Neri	
PICPA Annual Business Meeting		
3pm	Keynote Address - Hon. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda	

PICPA NATIONAL
JULY 21, 2006 (Friday)

Time	Activities	Venue
6pm	Fellowship Night & Dinner Show	Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
10pm	Ballroom Dancing	

JULY 22, 2006 (Saturday)

8am	Annual Planning Conference	Training Room, PICPA Building Mandaluyong City

JULY 23 2006 (Sunday)

6pm	Film Viewing – "Superman Returns"	SM MALL OF ASIA IMAX

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- **Travel by land,** take the E train /C2
- **Sea Princess gets** Bench feverish /E2

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

The gift of 'in-sight'

By Miguel Escano
Contributor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

FR. JESUS FERNANDEZ, SJ, IS doing Christ's work by sharing the gift of "in-sight." Founder of the Ephpheta Foundation, he enables the blind and the disabled to see their self-worth. As head of the Tuklasan Foundation, he also empowers married couples to see beyond their individual differences.

At an age when others would readily retreat from the demands of the world, this tireless priest plans to devote his remaining years to his chosen apostolates: the blind, married couples and families.

Fr. Jess, as he is affectionately called, is celebrating two milestones this year. Last June 28, he celebrated his 75th birthday. Three days earlier on June 25, married couples commemorated 25 years of the Tuklasan Foundation, a marriage-encounter community.

"A little pact I made with God about my apostolates was: 'You take care of my blind, I take care of your families.' God has kept his

THE GIFT/ C4

At 75, Fr. Jess Fernandez, SJ, remains a tireless worker in his chosen apostolates: the blind, married couples and families

JESS Fernandez, SJ

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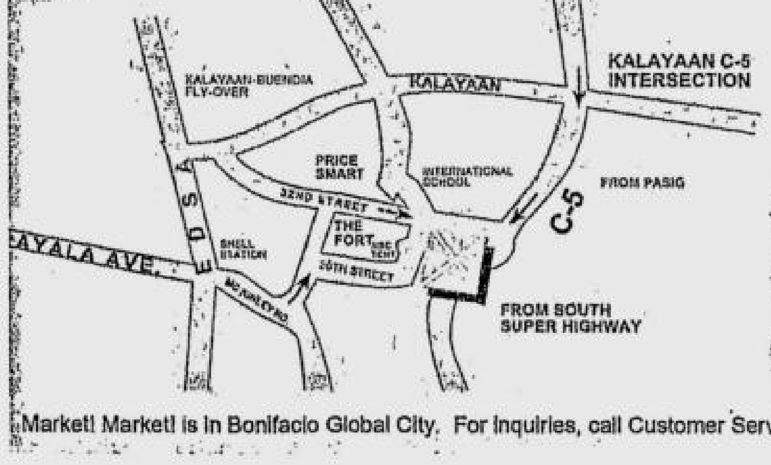
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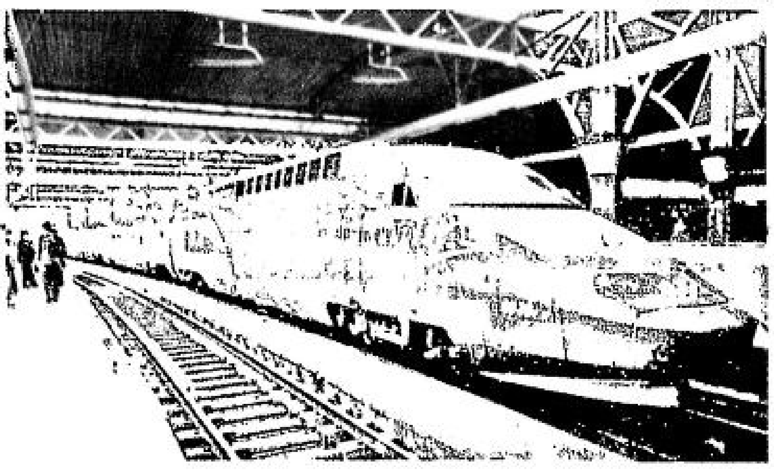
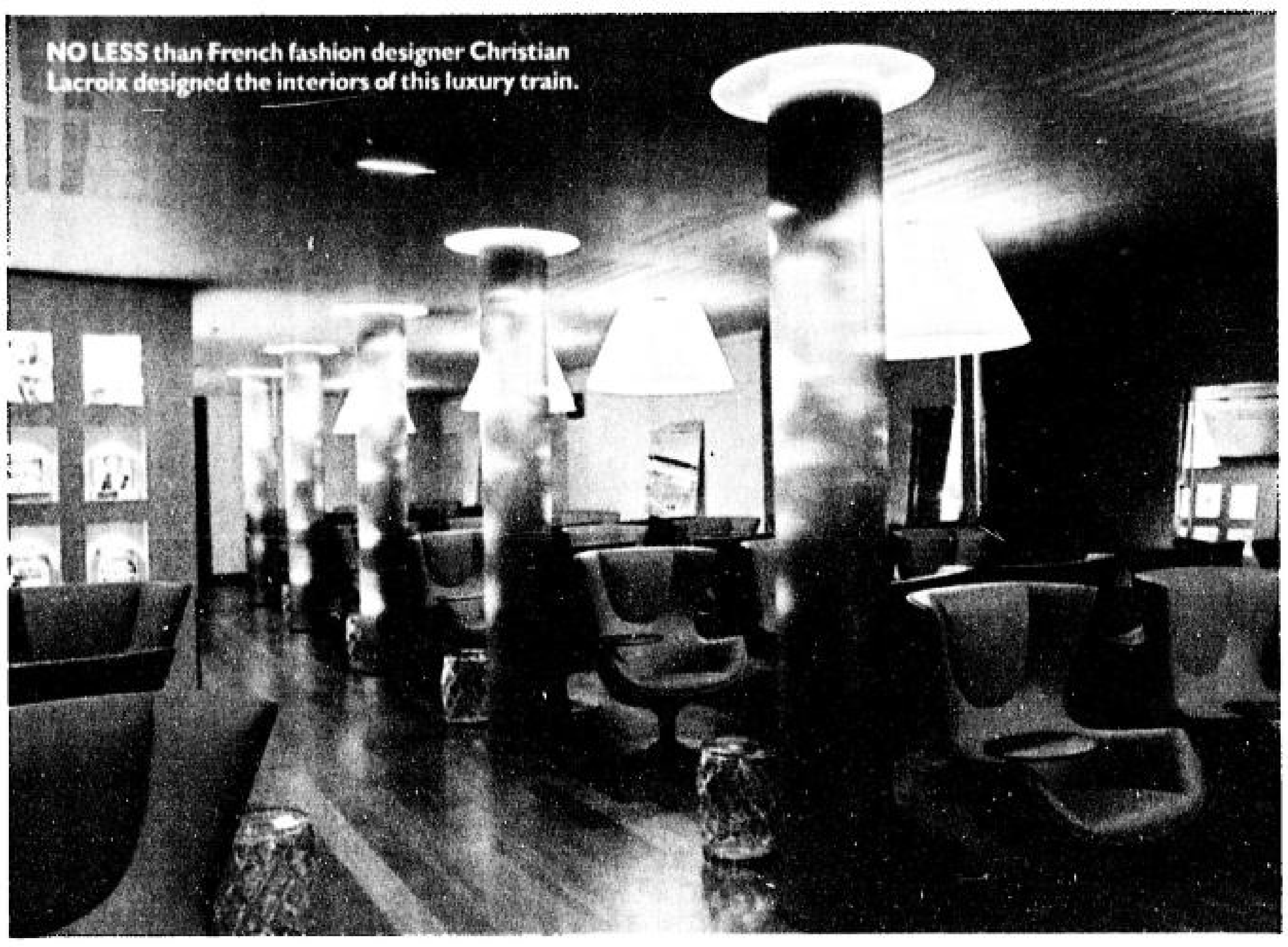
Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel



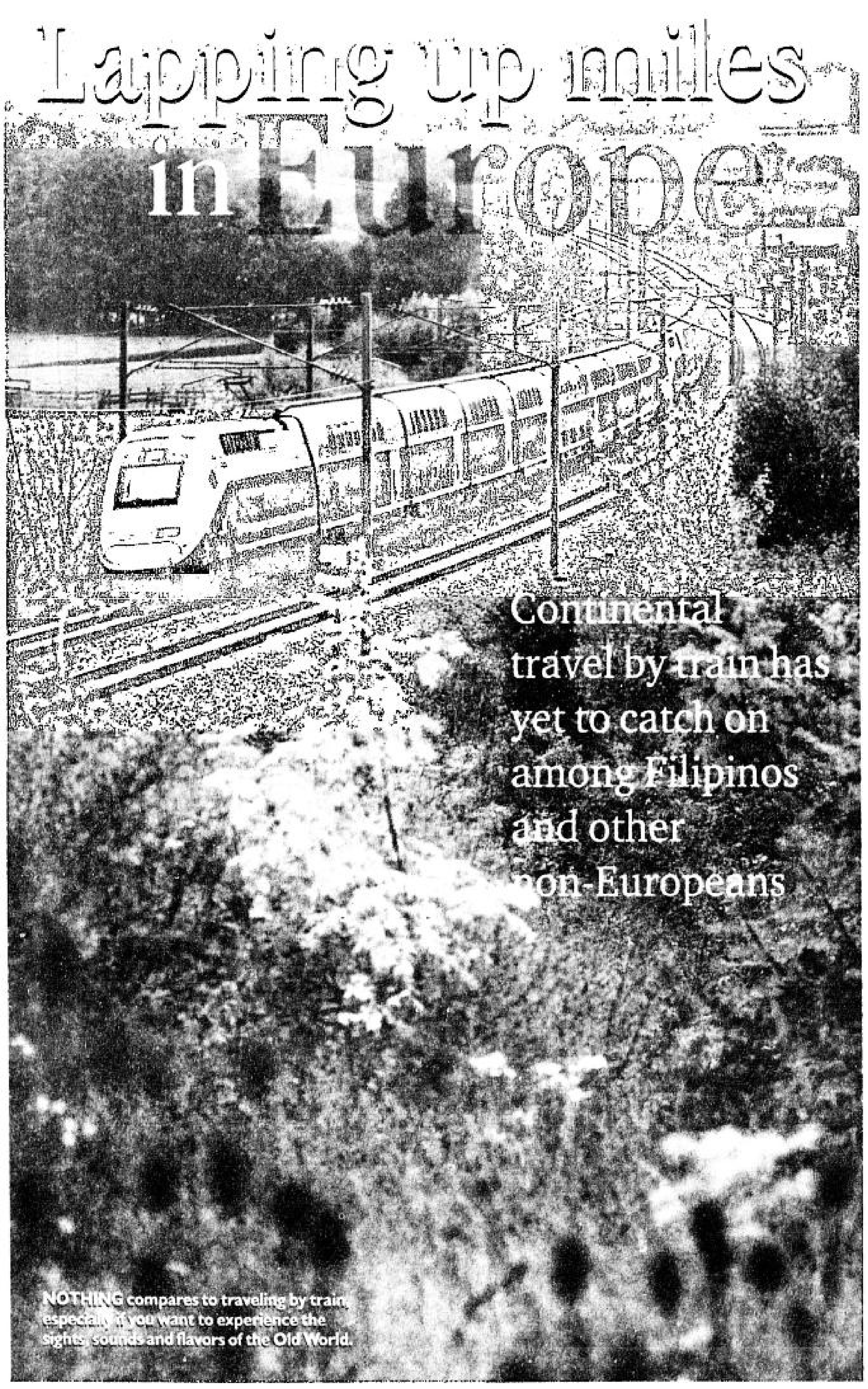
ALL aboard the Euro express



NO LESS than French fashion designer Christian Lacroix designed the interiors of this luxury train.

SHOPPING tours via train are gaining popularity among Asian women.

Lapping up miles in Europe



Continental travel by train has yet to catch on among Filipinos and other non-Europeans

NOTHING compares to traveling by train, especially if you want to experience the sights, sounds and flavors of the Old World.

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHILE TRAVELING BY TRAIN ALL over Europe is a routine among continentals, it has yet to catch on with tourists, with the notable exceptions of the Japanese, Koreans and Americans.

Y et traveling by train is one of the cheapest, fastest and most convenient ways to experience the sights, sounds and flavors of the Old World, said Xavier Theret, sales director of RailEurope.

For one, you don't have to travel several miles from downtown to get to an airport, as most train stations in Europe are located in the middle of the city.

You also don't have to spend precious minutes checking in since most train companies (except EuroStar) have done away with such a time-consuming procedure.

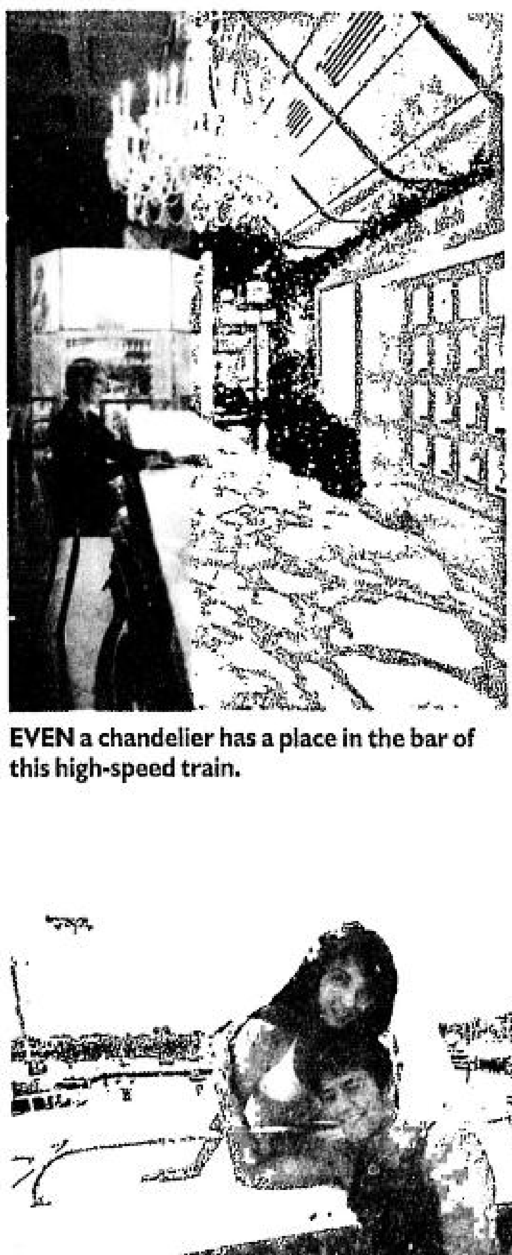
"If you regularly watch European films," the Frenchman added, "you would find many films where important scenes take place in a train. If you ask your European friends, most of them probably have a story to tell you about something that happened to them in a train."

Americans were among the first foreign tourists to discover the joys of traveling by train across Europe. That was back in the 1960s, said Theret.

"First-time travelers to Europe usually travel in groups," he observed. "Their trips are usually limited to big cities. When they come back, however, they usually limit their travel to a specific destination or two, either individually or in pairs."

Theret recently visited a number of Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, where RailEurope conducts business. Adventure International Tours Inc. (tel. 8674888 to 95) represents the company locally.

RailEurope is one of the biggest sellers of train tickets—from the point-to-point variety to the more expensive and comprehensive continent-wide pass—to Europe's overseas market. So what's the best deal to go for?



EVEN a chandelier has a place in the bar of this high-speed train.

Time, budget, interests

It really depends on how much time and budget you have, not to mention your interests. One of RailEurope's most popular passes, for instance, costs $300 per person and allows you to go to as many as 18 countries within a period of two months.

You can also avail yourself of a national pass, which allows you to travel extensively in a specific country. This particular pass is popular among families, couples and senior citizens. Students on vacation have generally more time in their hands and, thus, go for Europe-wide passes.

"Passes cost from as low as $120 to as high as $500," said Theret. "It all depends on how long and where you want to travel. Of course, the more countries you travel to, the more expensive the pass."

Since the company itself doesn't own or operate trains, it can't assure its customers of an even quality of ride as they change trains from one country to the next. Although most of Europe is now technically borderless (thanks to EU expansion), trains and their corresponding railway systems are still managed by individual countries.

Nonetheless, the quality of train travel has greatly improved, as countries, including those in Eastern Europe such as Poland, are working on improving their respective systems. When it comes to the number and quality of high-speed trains that run not lower than 300 kph, France still leads the rest of the continent, said Theret.

What RailEurope does is provide the public a quick, convenient and near-universal access to trains that run through Europe (including Scandinavia, Greece, Turkey and countries that make up the former Yugoslavia), with the exception of those in the Baltic region and former Soviet republics, including Russia.

"Since traveling by train to Europe is quite new among Filipinos, I have yet to find out what destinations appeal to them," said Theret. "I have been told, however, that France, particularly Lourdes, Italy and Switzerland, are popular among Filipinos."

In Singapore where shopping is a big passion among working women (as if it weren't elsewhere), the company's general sales agent (GSA) in the city state recently came up with a "shopping tour."

Food is also becoming a big come-on among Asians. The Japanese, in particular, are fond of fine wines. Of course, historic sites and the arts also attract a fair share of devotees.

Because of the global popularity of "The Da Vinci Code," a considerable number of tourists are now going to Paris and London to retrace the main characters' steps, said Theret.

Such is the power of mass media that it won't come as a surprise if any of RailEurope's enterprising representatives abroad build a tour around it.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

TRAVELBRIEFS

MTV stars and DOT celebrity endorsers in Taiwan, singer Hsiang Ma-Chen and actor Brian Chou

Subic's attractions star in Taiwanese TV drama

Taiwanese Sheng Hua Media Production, a top producer of drama series in Taiwan, has chosen the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) as the location for the drama "Kuo Huang Yi Hsiao."

The four-episode project will showcase Subic as a tourist destination and will feature Legenda Hotel, Grande Island, Ocean Adventure, Zoobic, El Kabayo and Yacht Club.

The show will be aired at prime time this month on China TV with an estimated three million viewership.

The Department of Tourism is promoting in Taiwan the SBFZ because of its accessibility and varied activities. The zone is only two and a half hours away north of Manila. The international airport receives twice weekly Mandarin Air charter flights from Taipei. Taiwanese tourists who travel directly to Subic on Mandarin Air and stay within the freeport do not need entry visas.

Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano said, "These are among the aggressive efforts of the DOT, the Manila Economic Cultural Office (Meco) in Taiwan and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) to promote the Philippines in the Taiwan market." Visitors from Taiwan from January to May reached 447,316, or four percent of total arrivals.

HK arrivals near 2 million

Tourist arrivals in Hong Kong reached 1.95 million in May, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) reported. The number was 7.3 percent higher than the figured registered for the same period last year. It brought the total for the first five months of 2006 to more than 10.3 million, an increase of 11.6 percent over last year. More than 1.04 million visitors were from mainland China. Taiwan was the only regional market to show a decline in arrivals. Hotel occupancy in May was 82 percent, 2 percent higher than the figure for the same month in 2005.

Play and win

Singapore Airlines' "First to Fly the A380 Quiz and Draw" is giving away two seats on the world's first A380 commercial flight and a luxurious two-destination hotel stay in Singapore and Sydney.

SIA celebrates the A380 historic flight from Singapore to Sydney. The promo is open to all 18 years old and older. It runs until Sept. 13. To join, simply log on to www.singaporeair.com/a380.

A celebration of Portugal's culture and cuisine

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

AMBASSADOR OF PORTUGAL JOAO **Caetano da Silva** was in Cebu for a week-long celebration of Portuguese culture, cuisine and friendship. His first activity was as special guest at the induction of officers of the Consular Corps-Cebu chapter.

The incoming chair is **Samuel Chioson**, honorary consul of Portugal in Cebu. He and his lovely wife, **Emily Benedicto Chioson**, hosted the elegant induction dinner at Salon Madrid of the Casino Español.

It's all in the family, they laughingly remarked, as the inducting officer and guest speaker was Emily's father, Foreign Affairs Usec. **Francisco Benedicto**. He has served the Philippines brilliantly as ambassador to Singapore, South Korea, Brazil and, most recently, Canada.

Portuguese Week in Cebu was formally launched at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel whose general manager **Marco Protacio** welcomed an array of prominent guests. Among them were Cebu City Mayor **Tommy Osmeña**, with wife **Margot**; and Vice Mayor **Mike Rama** who chairs the city's Tourism and Historical and Cultural Affairs Commissions.

Ambassador Da Silva delivered the keynote speech and asked everyone to join him in viewing an important exhibit at the foyer. The paintings were of Portuguese scenery and themes by two of the country's most eminent artists, **Manuel Baldemor** and **Phyllis Zaballero** who was present that evening.

Phyllis spoke of her trip to Portugal and her stay in a monastery at Arrabida, 50 km from Lisbon, the capital. The tranquility and serenity of the place inspired the beautiful output she exhibited on this occasion.

Food festival

The spirit well-nurtured, everyone then hied off to the hotel's Café Uno for the launching of the food festival featuring Portuguese specialties. Have you ever tried salted cod (*bacalao*) cooked with cream? Or a salad of shredded octopus?

Renee Villacin and **Debbie Murphy**, the hotel's PR ladies, made sure everyone had a good seat, and that their glasses were brimming with excellent Portuguese red or white wine. They also introduced the guest chef, **Antonio Santos**, and professor **Ivo Carnerio de Sousa**, director of Portugal's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

Professor Ivo has written a book about Portugal's maritime power. He gave a lecture on the topic and presented his book at the University of San Carlos. He found a formidable "reactor" in historian **Dionisio Sy**.

One of the highlights of Portuguese Week was a solemn afternoon mass at the Cebu Cathedral with Msgr. **Cris Garcia** as main celebrant, together with Augustinian fathers led by the Rector of the Basilica del Santo Niño, Rev. Fr. **Andrew Batayola**, OSA.

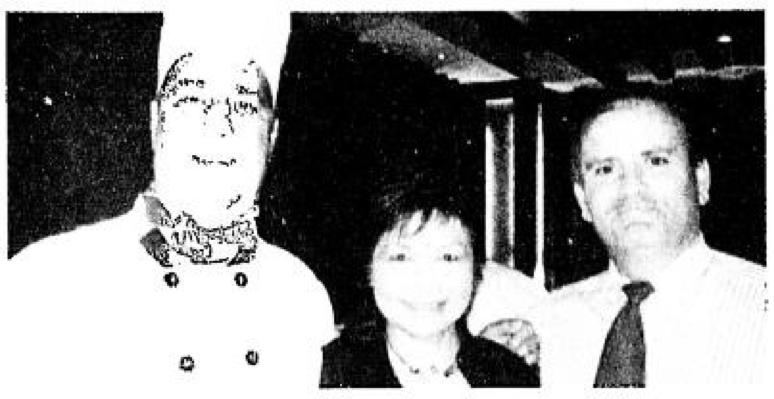
The mass featured the image of our Lady of Fatima that was later taken in procession to the site of Magellan's Cross in front of city hall.

Rehabilitated

Magellan's Cross is a must for tourists visiting Cebu. The kiosk houses a large cross that contains splinters of the original cross set upon the very same spot by Magellan and his men when they first came to Cebu 485 years ago, in 1521. The Portuguese government has been instrumental in the recent rehabilitation of the kiosk in the middle of a plaza.

The work has been felicitously done by architect **Melva Java**. It was the perfect occasion to unveil the newly rehabilitated marker, during a program attended by numerous civic leaders.

Therese Bowler Gonzalez, the project director and a prominent member of the city's Parks and Playgrounds Commissions, gave an eloquent speech. She effusively thanked Ambassador Da Silva and wished him Godspeed. After completing his Philippine tour of duty, he is off to Venezuela for his new assignment.



CHEF Antonio Santos, artist Phyllis Zaballero and Ambassador Da Silva

WATERFRONT Cebu City Hotel PR manager Renee Villacin (center) with Portuguese Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva (right) and Honorary Consul in Cebu Samuel Chioson

'Aspire to inspire' in 2007

KYTHE INC. HAS PRODUCED A 2007 calendar encouraging people to "aspire to inspire" and featuring individuals kids aspire to become.

The calendar aims to inspire other people to be role models for children and to do what they can to help those in need.

Featured in the calendar are chef Margarita Fores, pilot captain Manny Osias, renowned painter Malang, dancer-choreographer Maribeth Bichara, basketball player Hector Calma, professor Queena Lee-Chua, Sycip-Gorres-Velayo & Co. chair David L. Balangue, former Defense Sec. Renato de Villa, singer Iya Villania, nurse-educator Annabelle R. Borromeo, cardiologist William T. Chua, and entrepreneur Pedro E. Roxas.

The calendar celebrates the dreams of child beneficiaries of Kythe, Inc. It aims to inspire people to be like these children, who remain courageous and hopeful in spite of the challenges they face.

Kythe, Inc., is a non-stock, nonprofit organization that helps address the needs of chronically ill children through the Child Life Program in nine Philippine hospitals.

Visit www.kythe.org or call 3763454 or 0918-9072094; or fax 3763454. E-mail kytheinc@yahoo.com

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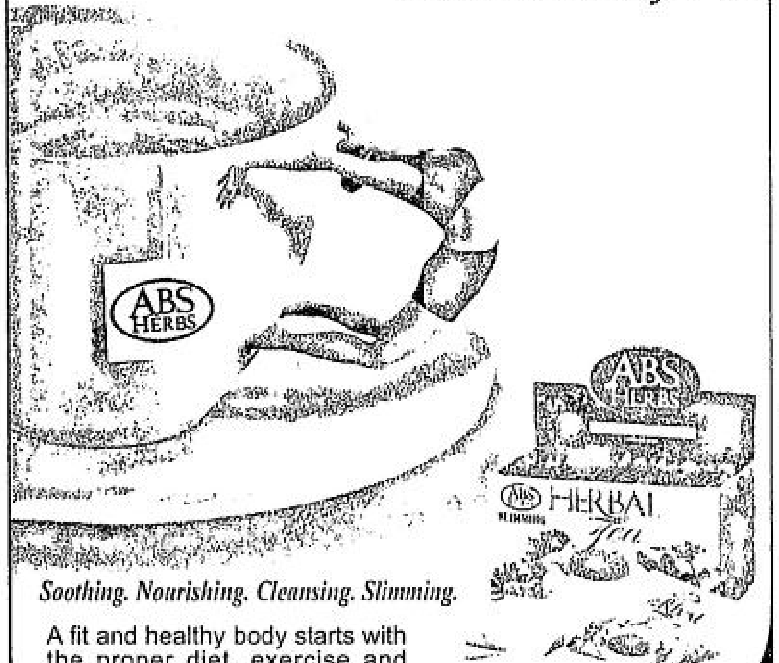

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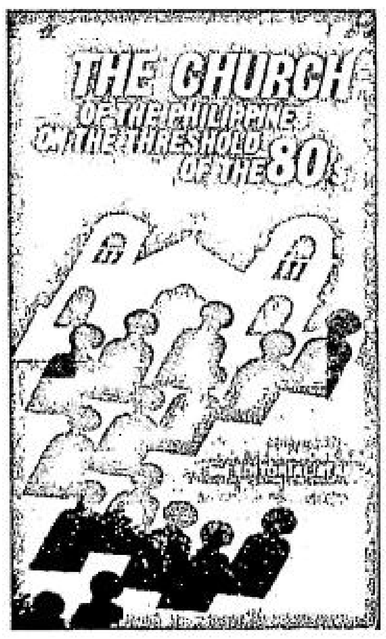
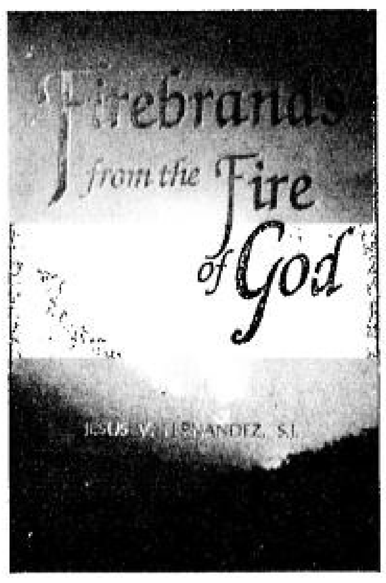
Josefina E. Cortes, Ph.D.
Jesus V. Fernandez, S.J.
years





JONES Campos and Jun Lansangan. Seated: Lirio Feria and Menie Ledesma

The gift of 'in-sight'

THROUGH the years, Fr. Jess has helped people grow spiritually and to practice their faith more maturely.

From page C1

side of the covenant. And I am striving to keep my side, too," says Fr. Jess.

Leading the blind

According to him, "Working for the blind was like God's call to Abraham." He received the call in 1969, the year the Ephpheta Foundation was established.

With no background or experience in working with the blind, he became involved in social outreach and livelihood projects for their benefit. First, the School for the Deaf and the Blind in Pasay City asked Fr. Jess for help in looking for shelter for their blind students, a number of whom were homeless and living under bridges. Next, he became involved in gathering blind beggars in Project 4, QC, and training them in livelihood projects.

Later that year, Fr. Jess and the people he worked with decided to create an organization dedicated to serving the blind. They named the foundation "Ephpheta," after the word Jesus used to heal the deaf and blind in the Bible.

The Ephpheta Foundation strives to integrate the blind into mainstream society. The organization locates blind persons in a community and "rehabilitates" them through livelihood programs. Members graduate after five months of livelihood training. The latest batch graduated last July 7.

"Most of the blind people we train are unschooled," says Fr. Jess.

The Ephpheta foundation teaches its members to read Braille. It also trains them for placement exams so that they can be accepted to special education centers in public schools.

"Most blind people have an inferiority complex. They have a hard time being with others. We get them to socialize," says Fr. Jess.

During graduation, there is a lot of hugging and crying. "Being separated is hard for them. They've grown so much with their fellow blind," says Fr. Jess. "I feel that a real miracle happens in every group. They are able to realize that they have changed," he adds.

Empowered couples

Having chosen to lead a life of commitment, Fr. Jess helps married couples rediscover their commitment to each other, to their families and to God. He actively participates in the Christian Family Movement, the Married Encounter and the Family Encounter.

As chair of the Tuklasan Foundation, Inc., a marriage encounter community and sector of the Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines, Fr. Jess conducts one-day marriage enrichment sessions called "Tuklasan."

"My advice to couples is to communicate to each other. In the marriage encounter, we encourage couples to dialogue. They come to learn to accept each other as they are," says Fr. Jess.

"There are couples who feel that the marriage encounter is a last resort. We've had many miracles that way. The sacrament of marriage, the grace given to couples, comes to the fore when they become honest and open. Couples need continual healing from each other."

Fr. Jess' family ministry started in 1967 when he was a chaplain in the Christian Family Movement. Through the years, he has helped its members to grow spiritually and to practice their faith more maturely. In addition, he has helped them become more apostolic in their outlook as they cross parochial boundaries in the service of the disabled, the blind and the poor.

Miracle worker

The people he has helped—the blind, married couples and families—insist that Fr. Jess, named after a very high-profile miracle worker, has also worked miracles in their lives.

With Fr. Jess, boundaries are crossed, differences are resolved, and lives are restored under the grace of God. Since becoming a priest in 1964, he has officiated at over 200 marriages. His talent for bringing people together is contagious. In the blind community, around 100 couples have been wed in mass weddings.

Asked whether he is ready to face God in heaven, Fr. Jess shares a story about St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus.

One of his companions asked St. Ignatius, who was now an old man, if he was content to die now and go to heaven or to wait a little longer. St. Ignatius answered, "I would take the risk so I can do more good."

Fr. Jess says, "If the Lord wants me to live longer and to be able to help more people, I'll take that risk." That should make his wards happy.

In Padre Pio's footsteps

=A GROUP OF SANTO PIO DEVOTEES HEADED by Chito and Tess Bertol, together with Manoling and Julie Torres, formed the very first Padre Pio pilgrimage with the blessings of Didi and Ramon Rodriguez, accredited head of the Center for Padre Pio Foundation.

The tour started as a suggestion which, by praying through Santo Pio, became a reality.

With Fr. Arnold Aurillo of Ormoc City, the group was composed of pilgrims from Bacolod, Ormoc, Ilocos and Michigan, US.

They included Dr. Gloria Pastor, Karen Rama, Imelda Bemdt, Imelda and Quining Gonzalez, Josie Ruiz, Caloy Gonzalez, Bert and Tata Caudal, Gb and Lito Caudal, Romy and Rhodora Lamzon, Letty Alonzo, Susan Pangilinan, Nestor and Helen Valle III, Elisa Agoot, Marietta Peneyra, Cet and Mercedes Mendoza. Tour escort was Chat of the Adams Travel Agency.

Upon arrival in Rome, the Filipino pilgrims had a Mass at the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, visited the Vatican Museum, admired the frescoes of Michelangelo at the Sistine Chapel, toured the Coliseum and the Pantheon, and participated in the papal blessing at St. Peter's Square. The first day ended with a visit to the Trevi Fountain.

The following day started with a visit to Monte Cassino Abbey, an elegant and magnificent monastery situated on a hill overlooking the city. This is where twins St. Benedict and St. Scholastica are buried in the monastery of the Benedictine monks.

Padre Pio landmarks

The highlight of the trip was the visit to Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary in San Giovanni, Rotndo, Italy, where Santo Pio spent countless hours with pilgrims. We were fully accommodated by Fr. Emerlindo, a Capuchin friar and friend of Padre Pio, who was with the stigmatic holy man during his last years in the friary.

Footage of Santo Pio were shown to the group. The members were filled with mixed emotions as they toured the sanctuary and saw the various relics of Padre Pio: his clothes, vestments, rosaries, gloves, even pillows stained with his blood, his writings and the very cross where he received the stigmata.

Finally, they reached the tomb of Padre Pio, and all the pilgrims were touched and wept at the sight of his crypt. They also visited St. Michael's cave where Padre Pio frequently visited. It was here where St. Michael appeared to him.

Next stop was Lanciano, where the miracle of the bleeding host took place when Padre Pio was saying mass.

Another unforgettable experience for the group was the visit to Portugal. During the night procession, four male members of the Philippine group were chosen to assist in carrying the image of Our Lady of Fatima on the grounds. The image of the Blessed Virgin was quite heavy, but the task was very memorable for these men. Previous to that procession, earlier that day, the group toured the apparition sites of the Virgin and the houses of Lucia and the beatified Jacinta and Francesco.

Museum tour

The next stop was Burgos, cradle of Castille and the gothic capital of Spain, where the magnificent cathedral, considered a heritage site, is located. The pilgrims had mass at the San Ignacio de Loyola Basilica and toured the museum.

Across the snow-clad Pyrenees Mountains, the group drove to Lourdes for another two nights. They attended a mass in one of the chapels and after meditating at the grotto, the pilgrims had a chance of bathing at the miraculous waters. The humble beginnings of St. Bernadette moved the group as they toured the "Cachot" (house), where she stayed with her family.

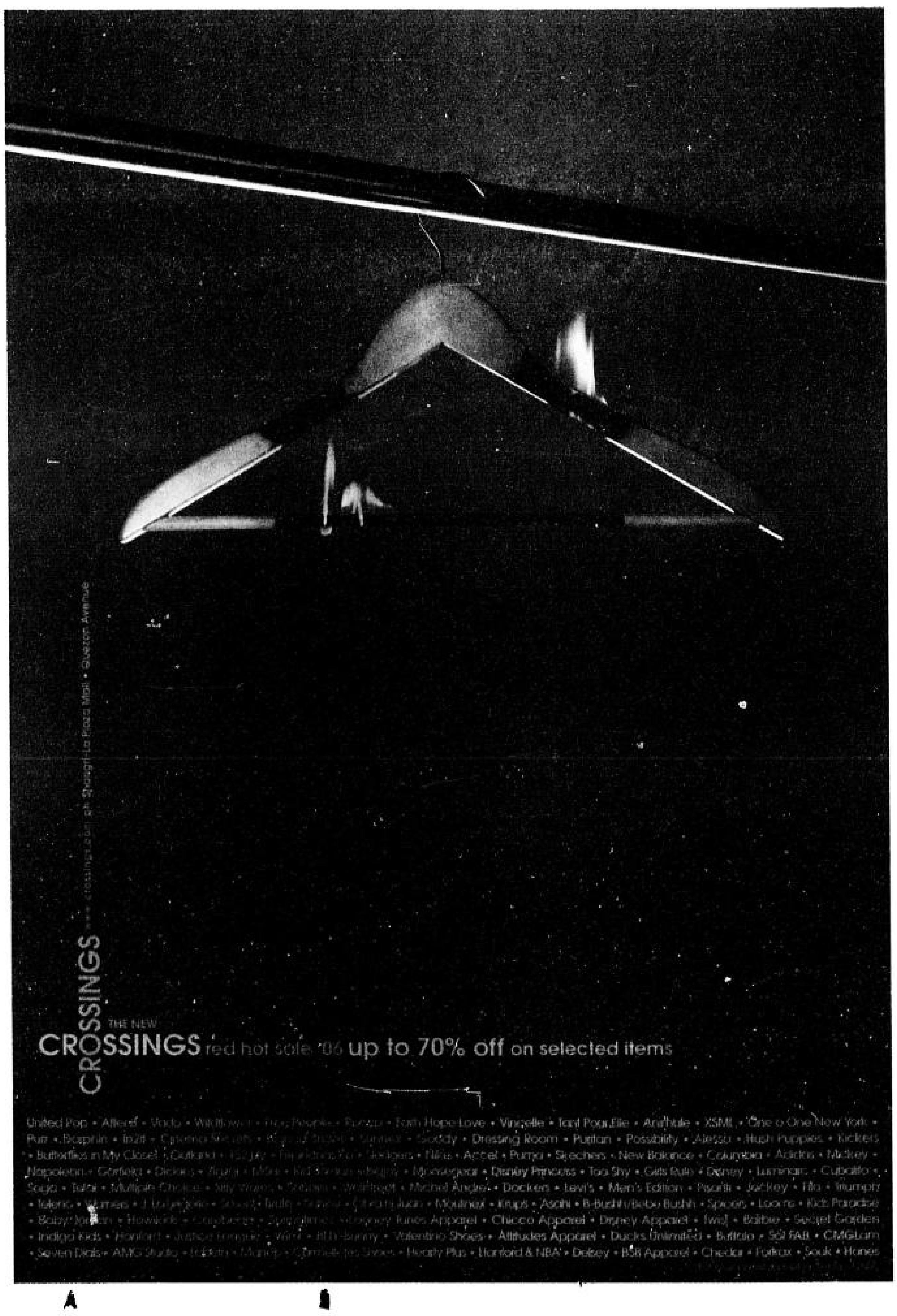
The next stop was Paray Le Monial. A mass was held at the chapel where Sacred Heart of Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Alacoque. Her incorrupt body lies at the side altar. The 13-hour drive back to the hotel was never boring because of the beautiful scenery along the way.

The group proceeded next to Nevers to visit the Monastery of St. Gilgard where the incorrupt body of St. Bernadette lies. There, they prayed at her favorite spots in the garden.

The last leg of the pilgrimage was Paris. The tour included visits to Notre Dame Cathedral, one of the greatest gothic churches in the world, the majestic Arc de Troimphe, Champs Élysée and famous Eiffel Tower. Before the night was over, the group had the chance to go on a river cruise on the river Seine (Bateaux Monches).

The 22-day journey was tiring, but the visits of the miracle sites seemed to have given the pilgrims extra energy. The strong bond formed between the members also helped to keep them going.

The group is planning a second pilgrimage, most likely in October, of Eastern Europe (of the shrines of the Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna and Sto. Niño de Prague, as well as of the wonderful city of Vienna), and of Western Europe (perhaps another tour to the Vatican and Santo Pio).



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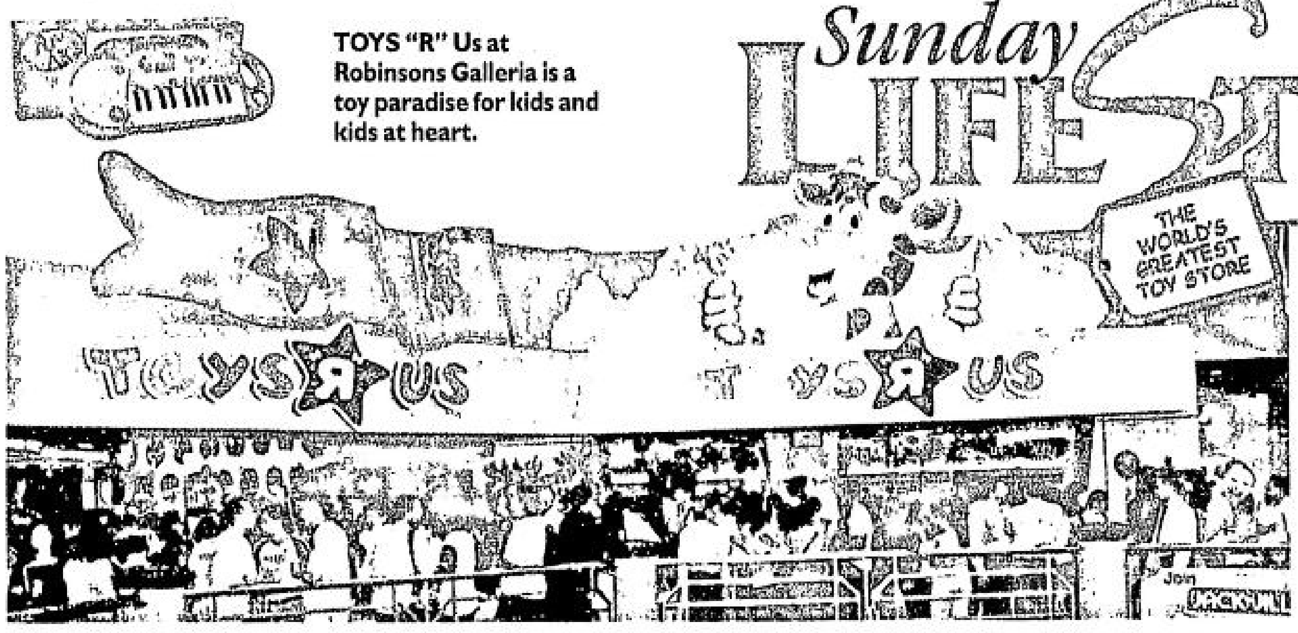


TOYS "R" Us at Robinsons Galleria is a toy paradise for kids and kids at heart.

ACTION heroes, such as Superman, Batman, Robin, Catwoman, Batwoman and Wonderwoman, grace the grand opening of Toys "R" Us.

Toys r finally Pinoys'

Parents, put a leash on your kids! Toys 'R' Us is here!

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

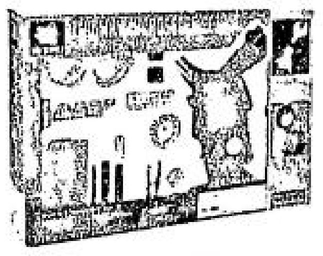
FINALLY, THE BIGGEST TOY store in the world has come to the Philippines, and now Filipino children can claim to be Toys 'R' Us kids and refuse to grow up.

Located on the fourth level of Robinsons Galleria at Ortigas Center, Toys "R" Us, the largest specialty toy retailer on the planet, offers Filipino kids and kids at heart a vast array of playthings both for fun and education.

The toy world is spread over a sprawling 2,500-sq m paradise, which used to be the mall's indoor theme park, Dreamscape.

The new store is the product of Robinsons Retail Group's alliance with Li & Fung Retailing, the official franchisee of Toys "R" Us international in Asia.

"We've been asked why it took us some time to bring the store here," said Jeremy Hobbins, group managing director of Li & Fung Retailing who was in town recently to grace the opening.



MICROSCOPE Set from Edu Science section

"We have had our eye on the Philippines but we needed a good partner to do it. We feel that the Philippines is a unique market and the retail partner is absolutely a key factor. We have a very good long-term relationship with the Gokongweis and Robinsons group. We know they are the right partner for us."

Toys "R" Us in Robinsons Galleria, the toy shop's 45th store in Asia, is a haven of quality toys, great games, small pools, books, educational and developmental products, sporting goods, juvenile furniture, and kid-friendly electronic, educational and entertainment software.

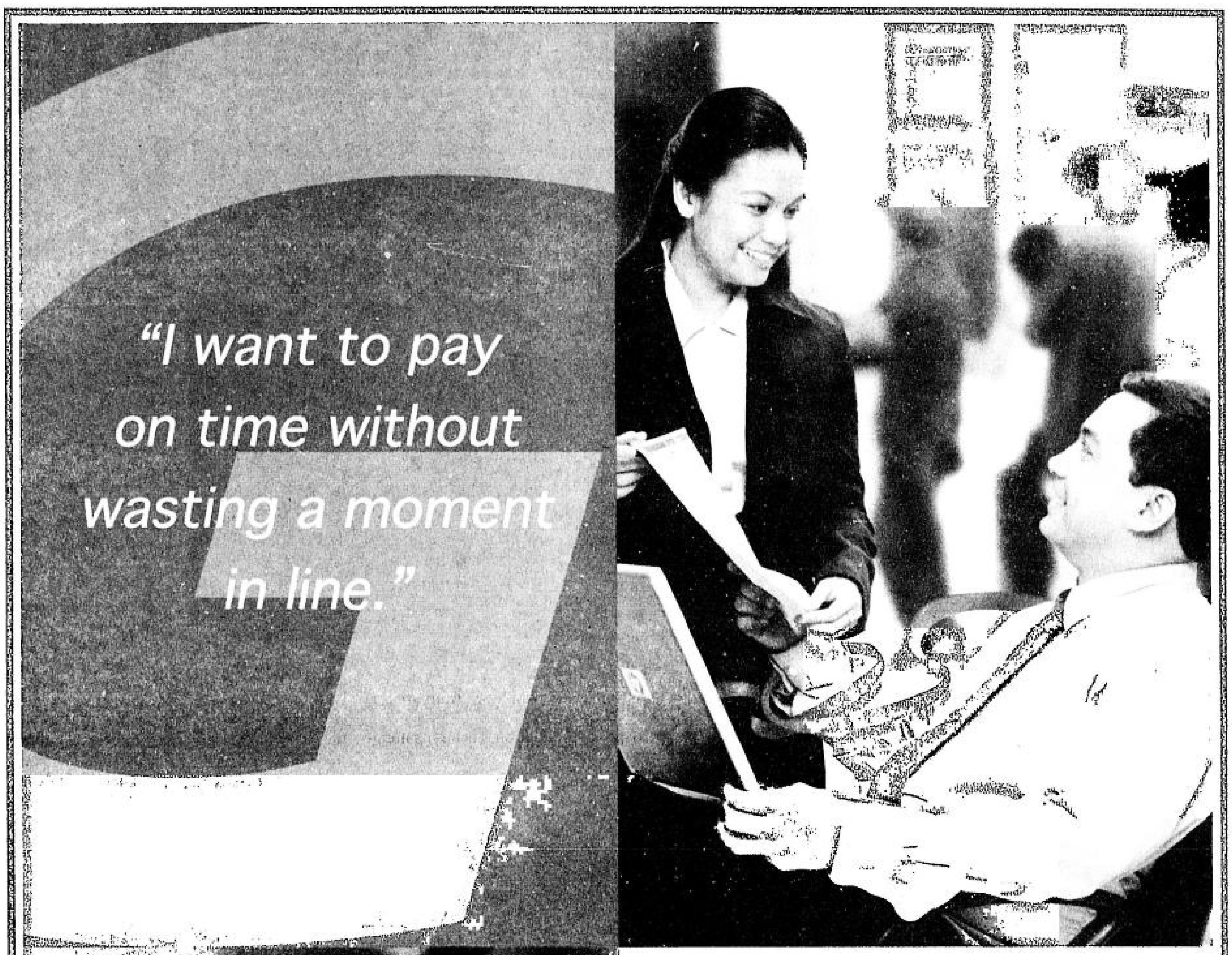
"The format [theme] for all Toys 'R' Us around the globe is the same," said Pieter Schats, chief executive officer of Toys "R" Us, Asia. "And when it comes to merchandise, we do a blend of local buy and imports. In the Philippines, there is a very strong distribution network of toys, and so we put a lot of merchandise from the local players, but we blended that with a very strong import program particularly of our private brands, such as Jessica Dolls, Sports and Outdoor."

Toys "R" Us in Robinsons has seven zones, like the shop's 1,400 other branches around the world. These zones or destina-

TOYS/ D4

A BUTTERFLY-WINGED fairy holds a Barbie doll set.

UNIQUE ALLIANCE. Robina Gokongwei-Pe, SVP and group general manager of Robinsons Retail Group; Lance Gokongwei, president and COO of JG Summit Holdings Inc.; and Jeremy Hobbins, group managing director of Li and Fung Retailing.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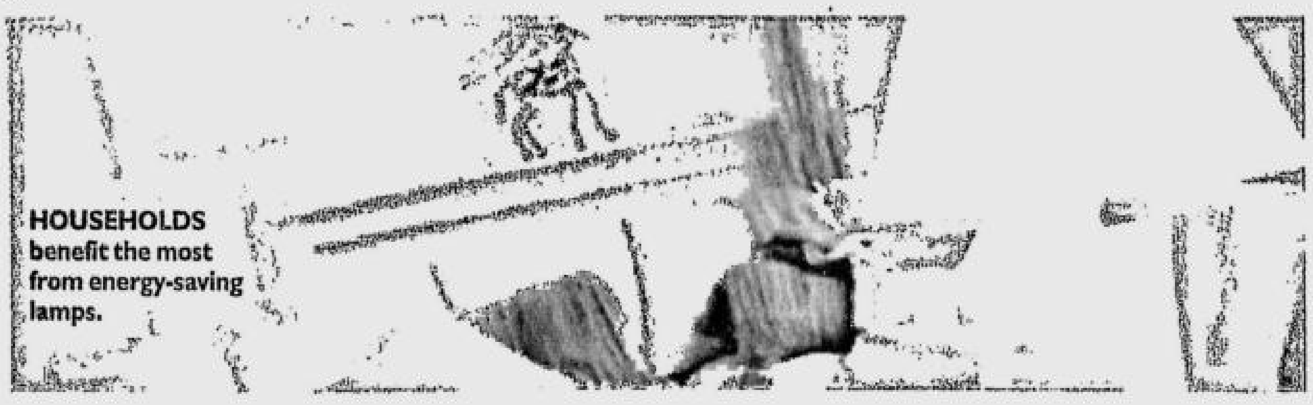

HOUSEHOLDS benefit the most from energy-saving lamps.

By Miguel Escaño
Contributor

IF THE PUBLIC KNEW HOW MUGH ENERgy-saving lamps can shave off from electricity bills, light bulbs would switch on inside everyone's heads.

"Compared with the industrial and commercial sectors, households are poised to benefit the most from the electricity savings generated by energy-saving lamps," says Paul Peeters, general manager for Philips Asia-Pacific.

"Unfortunately, the majority of households in the Philippines are unaware of this," he adds.

Philips Lighting Asia-Pacific, a global brand leader in lighting, recently held a press conference to communicate the benefits of switching to energy-saving lamps. The event also marked three years of the Philips Lifemax marketing campaign, which aims to educate the public on energy-saving tips and techniques on lighting.

"The challenge is to inform the public, especially Philippine households, on the huge benefits of energy-saving lamps," says Peeters.

In the dark

Most Filipino households are not taking advantage of the benefits, namely longer life span and electricity savings, of energy-saving lamps.

According to a 2004 survey conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), around 13.4 million households in the Philippines have electricity. About 54 percent of this number or 7.2 million households use incandescent bulbs.

A recent survey by Philips Lighting has revealed that only 15 percent of households with electricity or 2 million households use energy-saving lamps. The rest use regular lamps from fluorescent tubes to incandescent bulbs.

According to Philips, a household that switches from a normal incandescent lamp to a Philips energy-saving CFL (compact-fluorescent lamp) and uses it for five hours a day can save up to P700 annually. (This is based on an P8.83 per kilowatt hour rate.)

Philips CFLs use 80 percent less electricity compared with regular incandescent light bulbs. This is because a standard light bulb uses 60 watts while a Philips energy-saving bulb uses only 11 watts.

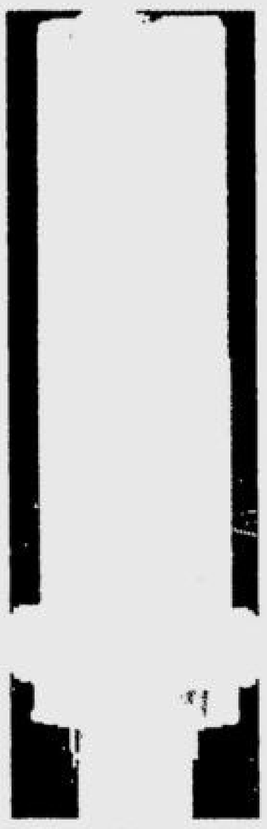
Electricity-wise, the savings are apparent. Unfortunately, the purchase price of energy-saving lamps may turn off consumers. Energy-saving alternatives to standard incandescent lamps cost higher (around P120).

Although the initial expense for a Philips CFL is higher compared with a standard light bulb, the energy savings incurred benefit the consumer in the long run. Philips has been trying to communicate this message ever since it started its Lifemax campaign three years ago.

A CHEAPER bulb does not mean more savings.

Is cheaper better?

According to the 2004 Household Energy Consumption Survey released in August 2005, 13.4 million or 92.1 percent of 14.6 million Filipino households named lighting as their main reason for energy usage. Ranking the criteria they use in selecting lamps or light bulbs, consumers pointed to long life first and illumination second.


CFLs use 80 percent less electricity.

"Consumers are aware of the presence of energy-saving lamps out in the market but they do not fully recognize the benefits," says Peeters.

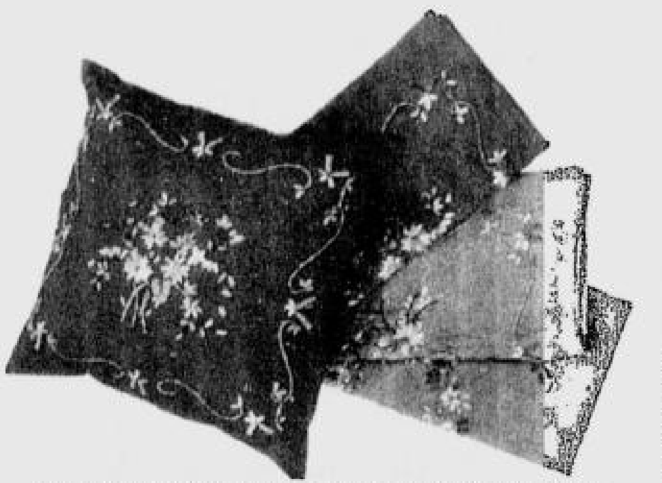
According to him, most consumers prefer buying cheaper bulbs compared with energy-saving lamps. A cheaper price tag, however, does not mean more savings. These "value bulbs" will hurt you more in the long run, insists Peeters.

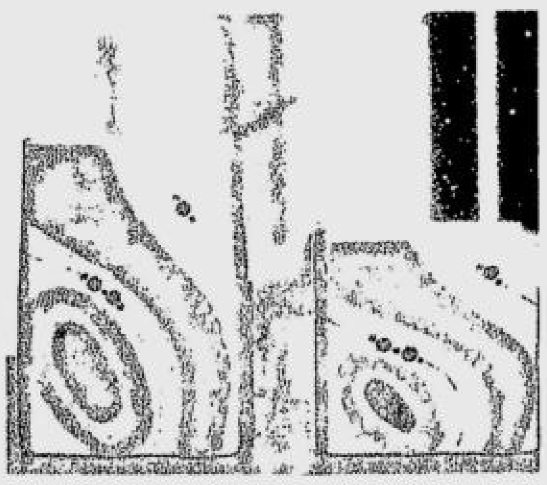
To illustrate his point, the Philips executive shares the company's experience in Indonesia. The company introduced its energy-saving lamps in Indonesia earlier than the Philippines. At first, consumers bought bargain light bulbs from China. These bulbs cost four times cheaper than standard incandescent bulbs. After a week, these bargain bulbs broke. So consumers had to replace them frequently.

Today, over 50 percent of Indonesian households that have electricity use energy-saving lamps. This number was 35 percent a year ago.

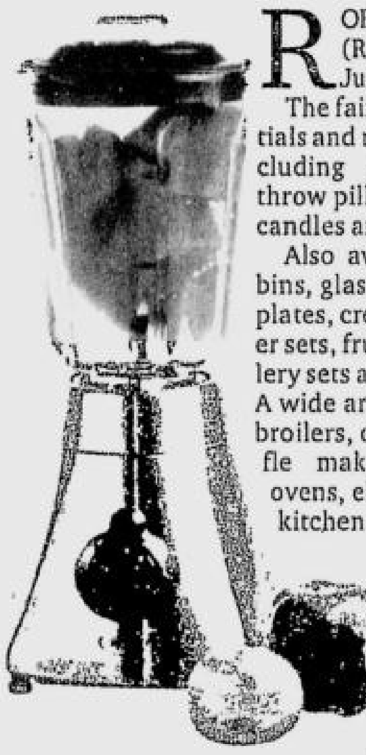
Peeters foresees the Philippines mimicking the trend in Indonesia. Last year, over 16 percent of households that have electricity in the Philippines used energy-saving lamps. He expects that number to double within this year and the next.

RETRO latte, P89.75; mug in tin can, P139.75; retro mug, P49.75


HOME Essentials embroidered suede throw pillow case (18x18), P199.75


DOC'S Candles Zamoa Solid Candle, P350 (medium), P300 (small)

Home fair ongoing until July 31


KYOWA blender (KW-4721), P1,400

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE (RDS) is having a "Home Fair" until July 31.

The fair features affordable home essentials and reasonably priced home décor, including flower arrangements, vases, throw pillow cases, curtains, lamp shades, candles and candle holders.

Also available are bowls, trays, bread bins, glass holders, round and oval dinner plates, cream and sugar bowls, glass pitcher sets, fruit holders, chopping boards, cutlery sets and ceramic or stoneware servers. A wide array of cookware, blenders, turbo broilers, oven toasters, sandwich and waffle makers, rice cookers, microwave ovens, electric kettles, air pots, and other kitchen appliances are also available.

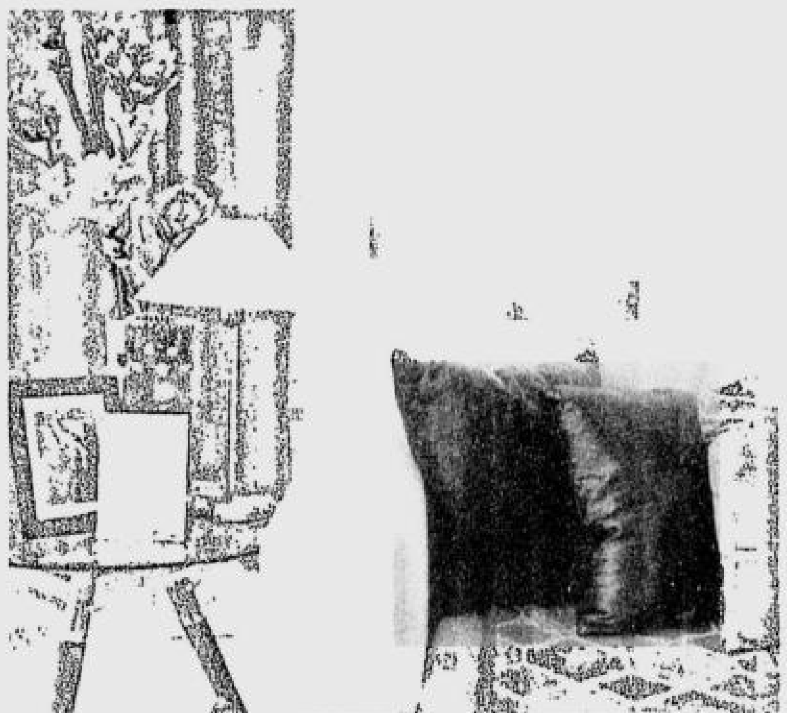
For the bathroom, there are shower caddies, bath towels, anti-slip mats, bins and flower arrangements.

Also available are storage and tool boxes, water dispensers, mug holders, place mats, table runners.

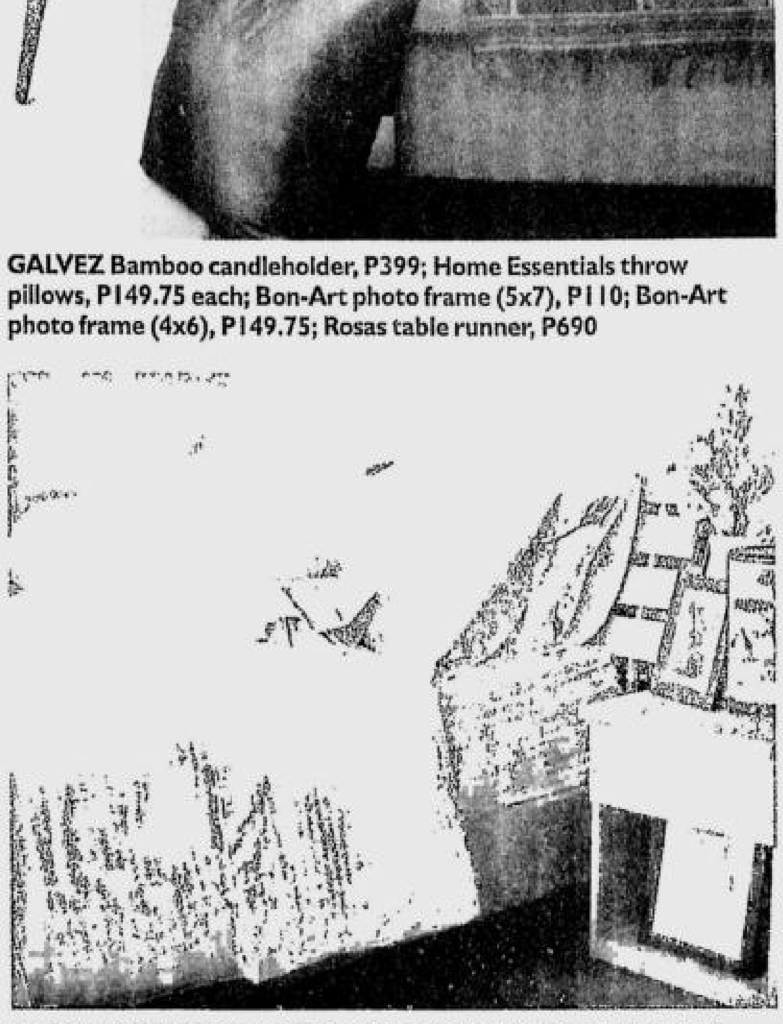
A small Home Essentials beanbag is available for P429.75 while a bean bag with back rest costs P1,199.75, with a minimum purchase of P500 of Home Essentials.

For a minimum purchase of P500, a Fold-a-mattress is available for P499.75. You also get a chance to be one of five lucky winners of a two-door 10-cu ft American Home refrigerator.

RDS has branches in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Nepo Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang. Log on to www.rds.com.ph.


GALVEZ Bamboo candleholder, P399; Home Essentials throw pillows, P149.75 each; Bon-Art photo frame (5x7), P110; Bon-Art photo frame (4x6), P149.75; Rosas table runner, P690

ST. LOUISE Loop top *katsa* with jute combination, P299.75


TREND-SETTER Luxury Collection cotton satin blue stripes and American Rose 4-piece queen bedsheet set, P3,848, less 25 percent; 3-piece queen fitted sheet set, P2,399, less 25 percent; 3-piece queen flat sheet set, P2,189.50, less 25 percent

Flower arrangement workshop

IKEBANA PROFESSOR SERApion S. Metilla will conduct a five-day course on flower arrangements for all occasions 1-6 p.m., July 19-23, at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Program of activities is:

Day 1—Introduction to Ikebana with hands-on on Moribana and Shoka

Day 2—Western style with hands-on on all-around or one-sided and L-shape

Day 3—Western style with hands-on on crescent shape, Hogarth line and flower shop operation

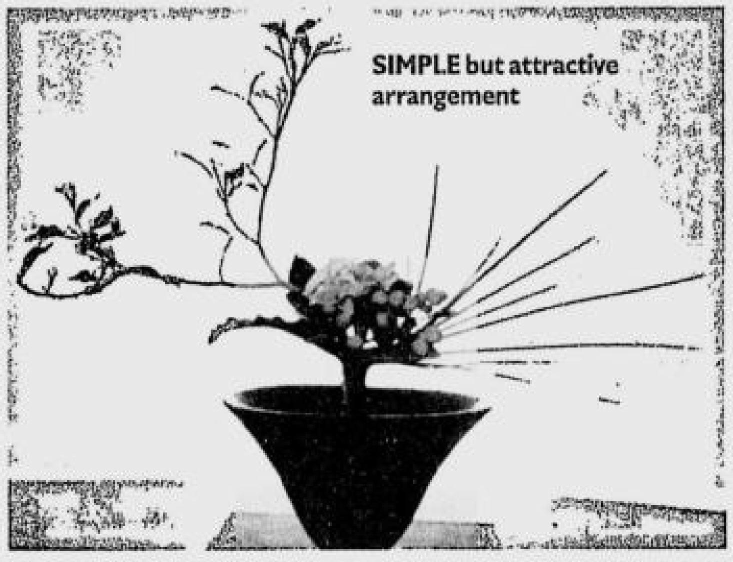
Day 4—Free style, buffet or party centerpieces and garland-making

Day 5—Corsage, bridal bouquet-making and other wedding pieces. All materials will be provided including pruning scissors, vases, foams, flowers, foliage, wires, etc. Snacks, handouts and certificate will also be provided.

Metilla will conduct a course on cement pot-making, now a money-making enterprise, 1-6 p.m., July 29-30. Cement pots are durable and easy and quick to make compared with clay pots.

Participants will make one bonsai pot, a flower vase and a cement stand. All materials will be provided, as well as handouts, snacks and certificate.

Advance registration is required. Call 9394593, 4352479 or 0917-8321352.


SIMPLE but attractive arrangement

Another home visit by the Design Doctor

"I DEFINITELY TRY TO INCORporate as much of what people have that's personal to them," says renowned interior designer Thom Filicia on creating homes for other people.

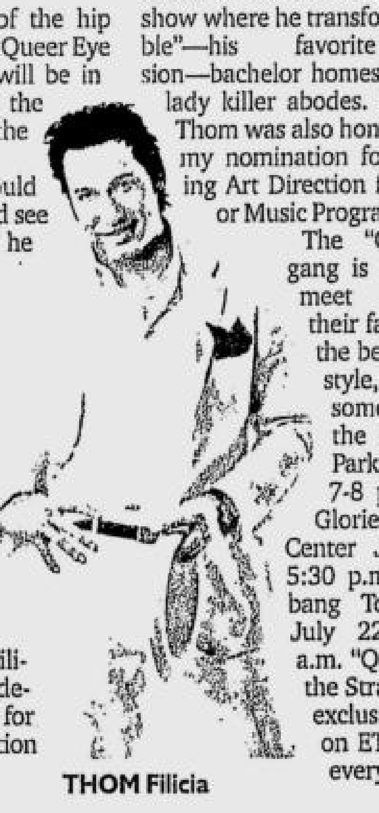
The Design Doctor of the hip and hit reality TV show "Queer Eye for The Straight Guy" will be in Manila July 20-22 with the rest of The Fab Five via the Ayala Malls.

"Your friends should walk into your space and see you—not the designer," he says. This is undoubtedly why he is so well-loved by "Queer Eye" audiences the world over, and why he is also a most sought-after interior whiz to the rich, famous and important.

One of House Beautiful's Top 100 American Designers, Filicia recently took on designing the windows for luxe New York auction house Christie's.

In 2004, Thom designed the tents for Olympus' Fashion Week in New York City and sponsored a table at Elle Decor's "Dining by Design" Diffa Event. But he is most famous for his role in the weekly TV show where he transforms "harrhible"—his favorite expression—bachelor homes to enviable lady killer abodes. In this role, Thom was also honored an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Art Direction for a Variety or Music Program.

The "Queer Eye" gang is expected to meet and greet their fans, dish out the best advice on style, and sign some books at the Greenbelt 3 Park on July 20, 7-8 p.m.; at the Glorietta Activity Center July 21, 4-5:30 p.m.; and Alabang Town Center July 22, 10-11:30 a.m. "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" is exclusively shown on ETC at 9 p.m. every Monday.


THOM Filicia

Living with one man, loving another

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

A year and a half ago, I wrote to you about falling in love with a stranger during a business trip. We exchanged e-mail and last month we met again in Tokyo.

We had a wonderful dinner and a very profound conversation. Time did not erase my feelings for him. He brought me back to my hotel, but we were silent in his car.

Suddenly, he asked if he could have tea in my room. I knew what this could lead to, but I welcomed the idea since I didn't want to part from him yet.

I was so nervous. I'd never had a man in a room, other than my husband.

He was nervous, too, spilling tea on his coat. He asked why I didn't ask for a kiss this time. I said I wanted to behave properly and I was controlling my feelings. But, yes, I wanted him to kiss me. He kissed me so passionately and, the next thing I knew, we were undressed and caressing each other.

Suddenly I asked him to stop. I realized it's morally wrong to continue. He heeded my request... quietly took a shower, dressed, kissed me goodnight and left.

I cried till morning, totally exhausted and disgusted with myself. How could I cheat on my marriage? How could I stop in the middle of what I had always dreamed of—a passionate encounter with the man I truly loved?

Now I'm back and not my usual self. When I face my husband, I feel some guilt. But how I wish something deeper happened between me and that man.

I can't seem to make up my mind about what I really want. How will I move on, living with someone and loving another?

NATALIE

> 'I wish something deeper happened between us'

You're not only playing games with this friend you're supposed to be "in love" with, you're also being so unfair to your husband.

You are pining, swooning, moaning and suffering for a stranger you don't know at all.

The e-mail and profound conversations don't define a relationship. You were infatuated and not bringing that raging emotion into fruition only made your life more miserable.

You say it's "morally wrong" to have sex with another man because you're married. But then you wish it happened anyway. I have news for you. It's already "morally wrong" just loving this man!

You should just have gone all the way with him and gotten it over with. Period. It would have been the same. Making yourself believe you have remained morally upright by not having sex with him is hogwash!

Not doing it is just as "bad" as doing it.

Had you made love with this stranger, your questions about every nuance and meaning of words you two exchanged would have been answered—finally! But now, you only have these "what ifs" tugging at your heart.

You'll never find out if this stranger is worth loving or ending your marriage for. And that's so sad!

If you're terribly unhappy with your marriage, cut yourself some slack and give peace of mind a chance. You'll be doing your husband and yourself a favor by being honest with him, instead of pursuing this sham of a marriage.

Life is already full of hypocrisy. Do you really want to be a part of that?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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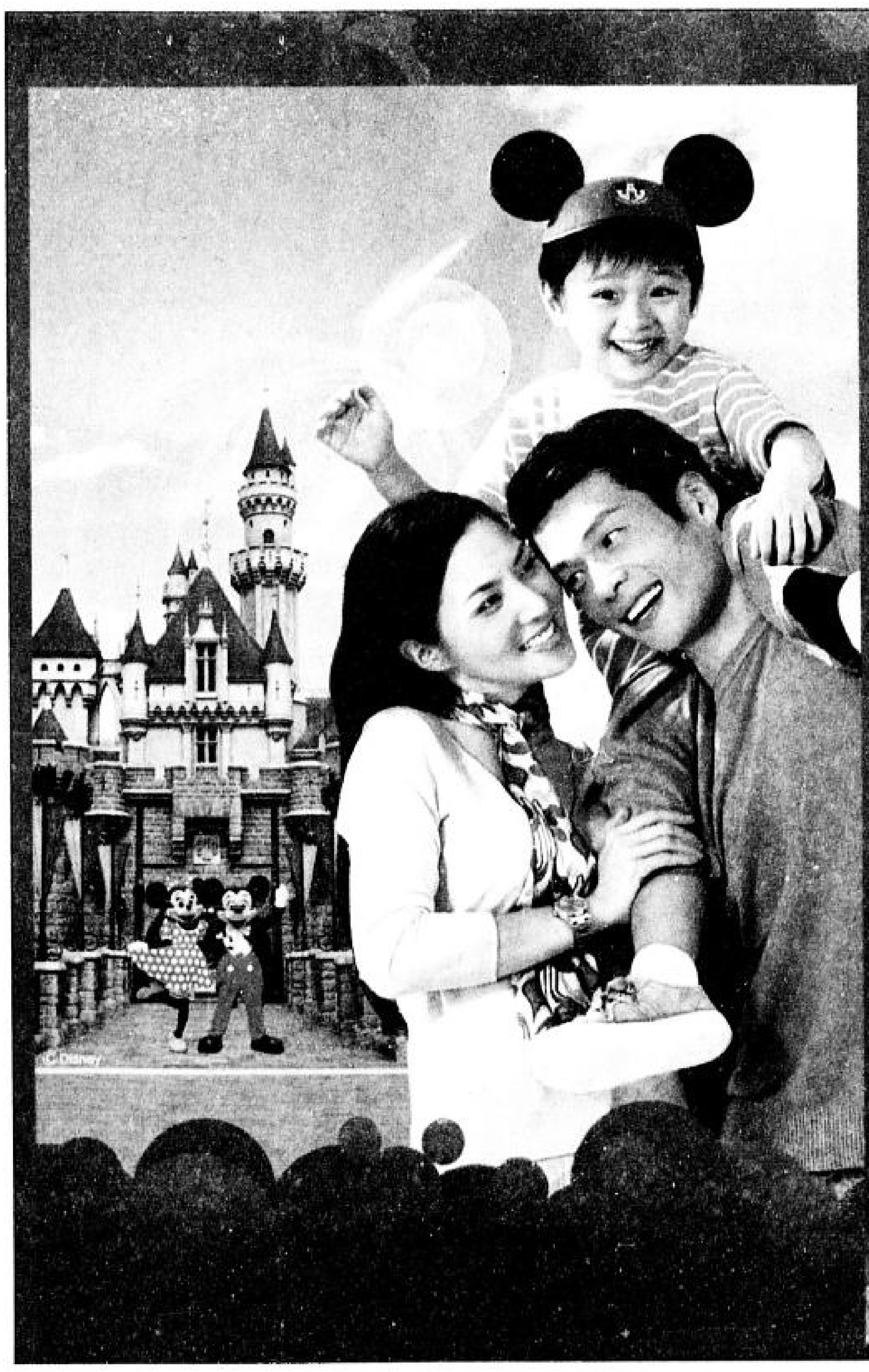

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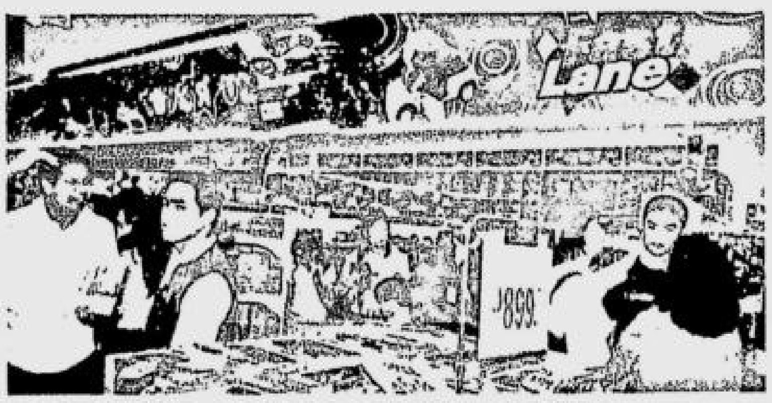
From page D1



A WIDE array of automobiles are available at the Fast Lane.

YOU can shop for educational and science playthings at the Edu Science section.

tions—Girls', Boys', R-Zone, Family Fun, Outdoor and Sports, Toys for Learning and Fun, and Babies "R" Us—carry all kinds of toys according to age and need .

Young girls will certainly enjoy arts and crafts and role-playing stuff (from dress-me-up dolls to mini kitchens) at the Girls' Zone, while boys will marvel at the extensive line of action and animé figures, trucks and wheelers at the Boys' Zone.

Techie youngsters will benefit from the broad array of didactic items, including the latest kid-friendly technology at the Education and Electronic gaming and Toys for Learning and Fun zones. The zones carry such brands as You and Me, Fast Lane, Edu Science, Bruin and Plush Stuffing.

Very competitive

"We were informed that there are many toy stores in Manila, but Robinsons is a very good retailer," said Hobbins. "Competition is very healthy. I think the more competition you have, the more people will invest in the market and the whole size of the toy business will grow."

BABIES "R" Us is the busiest section among the seven zones of Toys "R" Us.

Schats said Toys "R" Us had established a good coverage and a good market penetration in most countries.

"Toys 'R' Us tends to compete very well and it doesn't take us very long to get to No. 1," he said. "We feel confident that over time the format we got and fun factor, strength and brand and operation expertise in terms of finding the right product for the market will carry us through. We're a tough competitor."

PAVILLION'S chess set, a bonding game for the whole family

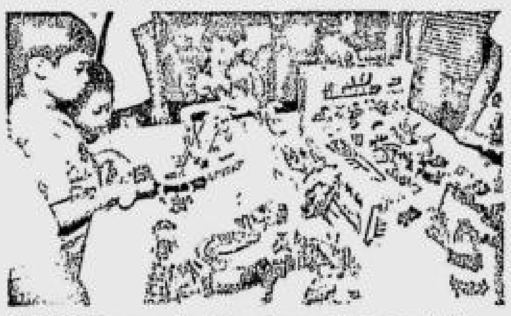
Toys "R" Us started in 1948 as a garage business founded by Charles Lazarus in Washington, DC. Since then, it has become an $11-billion company with 1,400 retail stores in over 30 countries. In the US alone, it has 680 stores.

Hobbins pointed out Robinsons had all the products of Toys "R" Us available anywhere else.

"We hope what we bring to you is the very best of the merchandise from around the region. We do all our sourcing ourselves directly, and we have a regional team in Hong Kong that looks for the best toys around the world. Here, you have a combination of the best local and imported brands," said Hobbins.

All under one playful roof.

CUTE, cuddly stuffed toys at Animal Alley



LITTLE boys enjoy the demo play set at the Boys' Zone.

TOYS "R" Us Family and Fun Games section offers board games and electronic video sets.

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

REYES-MERCADO

Maricel Añonuevo Mercado, youngest daughter of **Maximo** and **Corazon Mercado** of Lumban, Laguna, was married recently to **Marvin Kevin Roxas Reyes**, youngest son of **Edwin** and **Chona Reyes** of Quezon City, at San Sebastian Parish, Lumbari, Laguna. Reception followed at Caliraya Springs Golf and Country Club. The bride's gown and the groom's barong were made of piña with handmade embroidery, a specialty of Lumban, Laguna.

ABAD-DE JESUS

Vince Androise Abad, son of **Amado** and **Bevilyn Abad**, will marry **Jackie Lou S. de Jesus**, daughter of **Adriano** and **Aurelia de Jesus**, on July 25 at Santuario de San José. Reception will follow at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. The bride will wear a **Mar Espayos** design.

ABANILLA-VILLANUEVA

Joey Abanilla, son of **Gavino** and **Mercedes Abanilla**, will marry **Maricel Villanueva**, daughter of **Marciano** and **Bibiana Villanueva**, on July 30 at Saint Francis de Paola Church, Mabini, Batangas. Reception will follow at the bride's residence.

SAN LUIS DEBUT

Lovella Mae "Lovely" Manso San Luis, daughter of **Alivic** and **Nenette San Luis**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on July 22 at Sophia Garden, Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila. She is a sophomore student at the UST-AMV College of Accountancy.

The debutante will wear a rainbow-colored tube princess gown made of satin and frosted organza with beads by **Lorena Merano.**

EXCONDE DEBUT

Angelique Cara Sanchez Exconde, eldest child and only girl in the brood of three of **Ferdinand Valentine** and **Maria Bella (nee Sanchez) Exconde**, will celebrate her 18th birthday at 7 p.m., July 23, at Maynila Ballroom of Manila Hotel. She is a first year Political Science student at the University of Sto. Tomas. Her gown is by **Ben Farrales** while choreography for the cotillion is by **Ogee Atos.**

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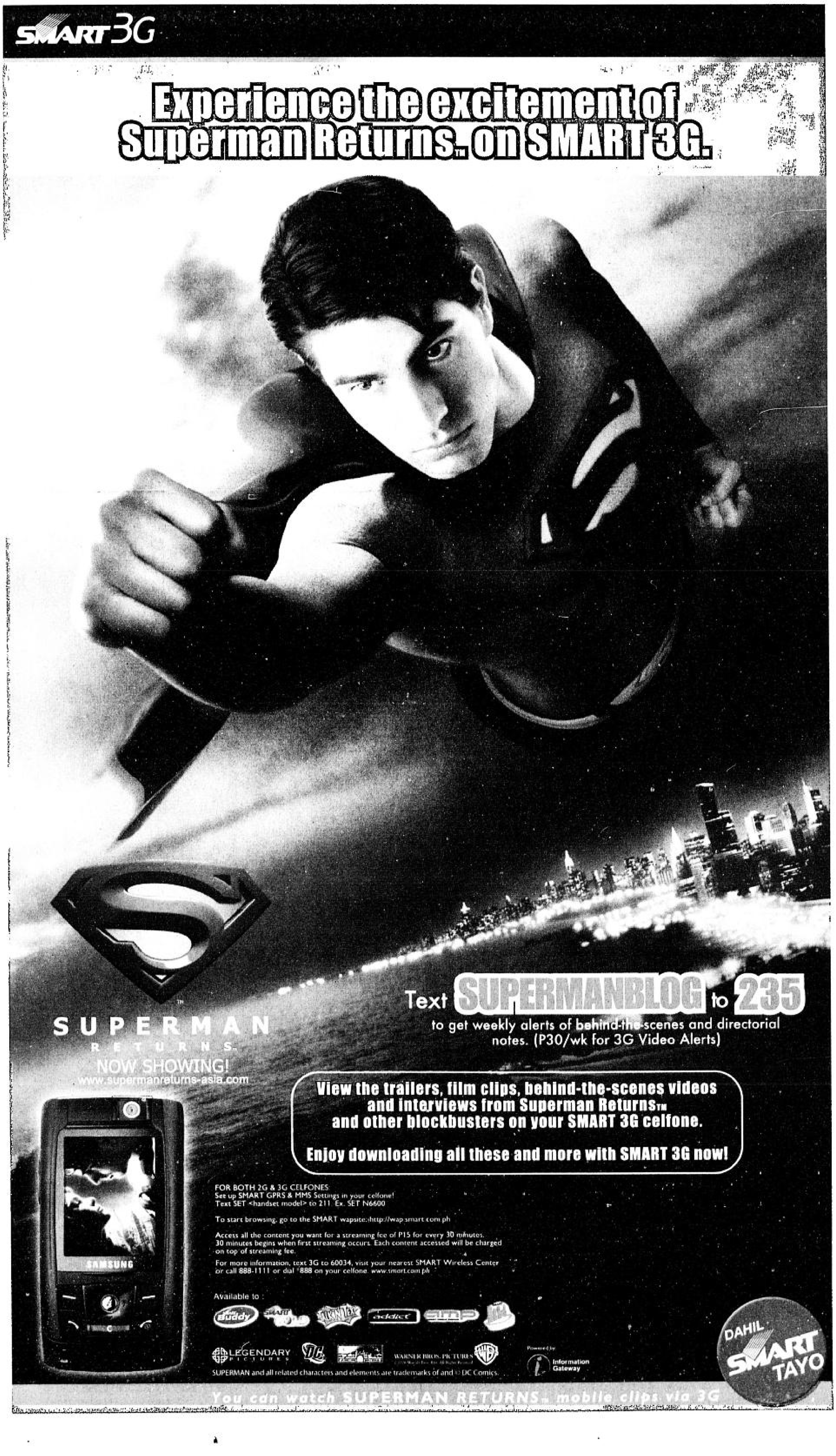

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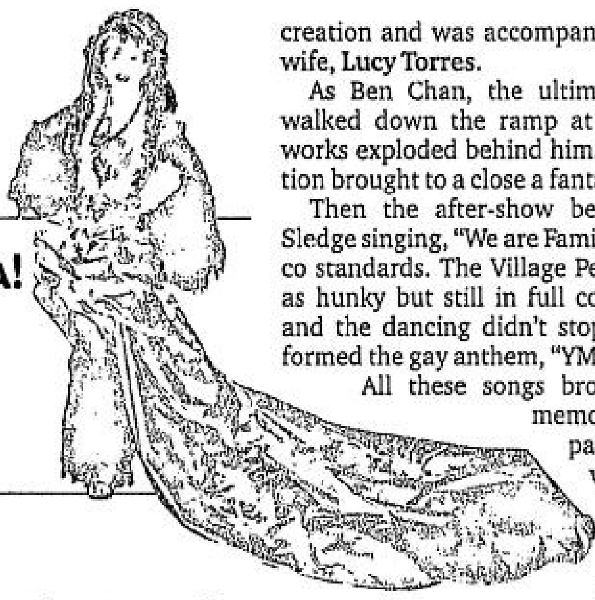
Having a ripping time in the dark

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes



WHAT'S YOUR GENERATION called? There are so many to remember—Baby Boomers, Rock N' Rollers, the Me Generation, Gen X. My own gen goes back to the disco '80s, when the hottest gadget around one's waist was an Easycall pager.

The vintage performers and show bands of each generation, such as the Lettermen of my parents' times, have been making their way to our country lately. So I was ecstatic when the icons of disco, the Village People and Sister Sledge, performed at "Bench Fever, the Underwear and Denim Show."

Retail mogul and ever-so-humble **Ben Chan** produces his much-awaited biennial extravaganza parading his mainstay endorsers and new recruits wearing Bench. This year's theme was the groovy '70s, replete with roller derby dancers, mirrored disco balls, a-go-go cages and even a DJ booth.

With this pulsating theme, the electrifying spectacle had the jam-packed Araneta Coliseum roaring and screaming from the opening number as chesty, brawny hunks ripped off their Bench jeans. All night long, the crowd's jaws dropped at the sight of models dropping their clothes.

The gigantic, boom-box set, with its acid-colored ramp designed by talented **Gino Gonzales**, was filled with bare-chested male and barely clad female celebrity models in Bench underwear stylized by several of the brightest designers and even first-time designers such as all-around creative **Celine Lopez** and versatile INQUIRER's Super! **Tim Yap.** Playboy-proportioned chests were partially covered with strips by creative **Rajo Laurel** and with lace by Victorian-themed designer **Patrice Ramos-Diaz.**

Awesome director **Robbie Carmona** chose the grooviest tunes of the disco era, keeping the energy high throughout the show.

Vivacious, curvaceous, sex-bomb actresses such as **Rufa Mae Quinto, Keanna Reeves** and my "cousin," **Francine Prieto**, got the loudest applause, while for the men the raves went to "Pinoy Big Brother" stars **Zanjoe Marudo** and **Sam Milby**, who had the crowd all the way to the bleachers screaming. Based on the roars, just as loved were hilarious comedienne **Ai-Ai de las Alas**, Adonis-formed **Diether Ocampo** and totally buff "Captain Barbell" **Richard Gutierrez**, who walked alongside his twin brother, **Raymond**.

The denim portion, mostly designed by avant-garde **Joey Samson**, ended with the original Bench endorser, **Richard Gomez**, who has now been with Bench for 18 years. Richard wore an American Indian-themed creation and was accompanied by his pretty wife, **Lucy Torres**.

> The Bench show featured sexy Francine Prieto, my 'cousin,' as well as Sister Sledge and Village People singing the anthems of my generation

As Ben Chan, the ultimate retail giant, walked down the ramp at the finale, fireworks exploded behind him. A standing ovation brought to a close a fantastic show.

Then the after-show began with Sister Sledge singing, "We are Family" and other disco standards. The Village People, clearly not as hunky but still in full costume, followed and the dancing didn't stop until they performed the gay anthem, "YMCA."

All these songs brought back fond memories of a happy past. I wonder what my daughter **Annika** will remember as her growing up songs.

Down memory lane at Shang

I was reminiscing all the way to Makati Shangri-La Hotel where my husband **Dennis** and I checked in to celebrate his 45th birthday weekend. While having a nightcap at Circles Event Bar, I was half-expecting to see the hotel's much-loved GM, **Jarlath Lynch**, walk in until I remembered that he had recently been appointed as GM of Shang Kuala Lumpur.

In fact, the Shang held a cocktail party the week before, both to congratulate Jarlath on his new posting and to welcome new GM, **Philippe Caretti**, a charming Swiss who will surely delight the hotel's many Pinoy guests. At the cocktail, Jarlath was quick to tease me—that I went straight to the new GM even before greeting him. It's our many years of friendship that allow us to joke around like that. We do miss you, Jarlath!

The Shang cocktail was a foodie heaven. While indulging in the sweet highlights of the dessert station, I spotted former Cebu GM **Desmond Hatton** who invited us to visit him in Shang's Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa in Muscat. Pardon me, as I am geographically impaired. I can't tell Muscat from Moscow but the "spa" in the name is a definite come-on!

Roche's osteoporosis bash

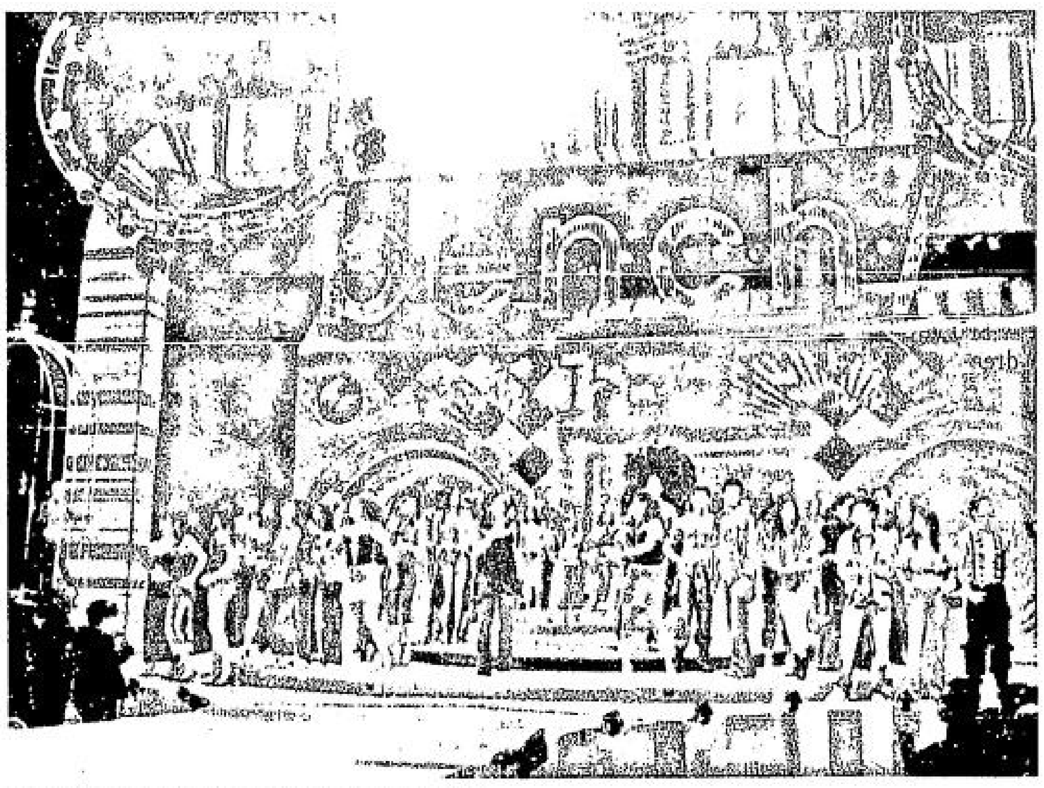
It seems like I was at the Shang all week, as I had also attended the Rizal Ballroom launch of Bonviva, a once-a-month osteoporosis medication introduced by Roche Philippines. Since it is a disease occurring mostly among women after menopause, during which time the bones become very porous, brittle and slow in healing, the Roche dinner program focused on the women's campaign for bone health.

Together with the medicine's launch, Roche also introduced former Miss Universe **Gloria Diaz** as its BonDiva (log on to www.bondiva.com.ph) spokesperson. Beauty cannot just be skin-deep! One's beauty regimen must start with the bones. Gloria personified this deep beauty as she walked on stage accompanied by super models-now-moms of the '90s, who all still look so stunning even if they have retired from the catwalk.

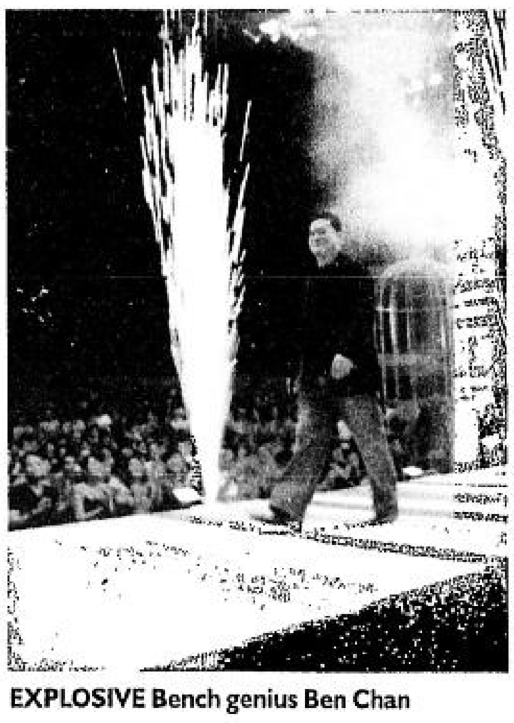
It really is quite amazing to learn what medicinal breakthroughs there have been. I joked with Roche marketing director **Joey Sy** that since Roche produced this wonder drug for healthier bones, they should also produce bone-lengthening medicine. Now that I will take for sure!

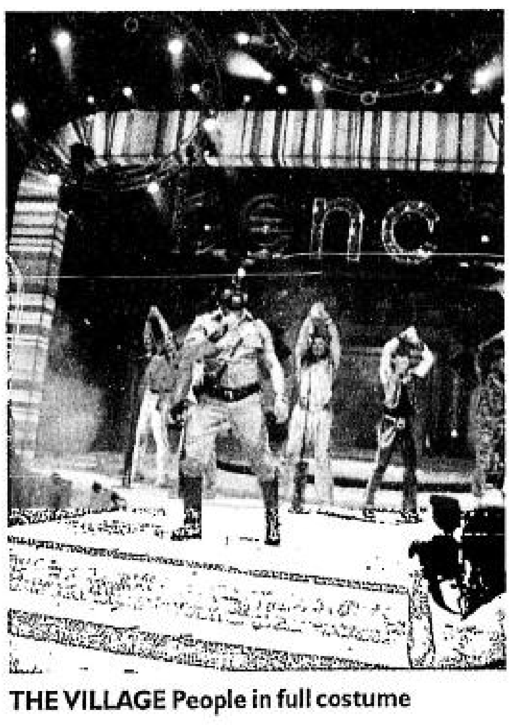
E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

BONVIVA med reps posing with BonDiva spokeperson Gloria Diaz and Sea Princess.



BENCH Fever finale number on disco stage

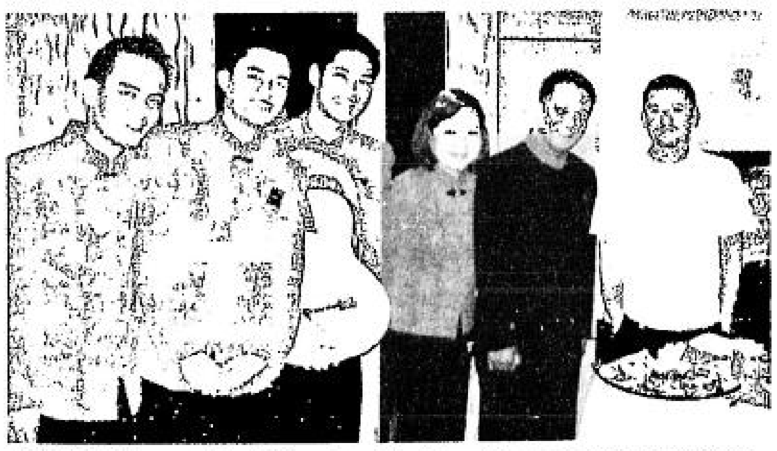

EXPLOSIVE Bench genius Ben Chan


THE VILLAGE People in full costume

HOST Edu Manzano with stunning models Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Patty Betita, Izza Gonzales-Agana, Marina Benipayo and Suyen Chi-Sia

JUST Shop brains Jenni Epperson and gorgeous Assunta de Rossi

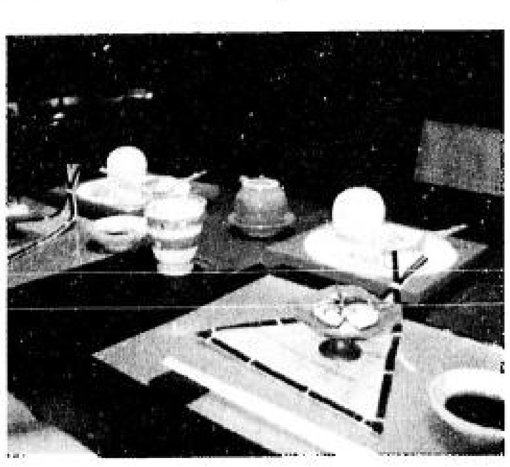
SHANGRI-LA chair Edward Kuok and Kuok Philippine Properties country head Tom Zita


SHANG Palace staff with head waiter Arnold surprise Dennis Valdes.

BENCH Fever people Jackie Aquino, Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel, Ben Chan and Patrice Ramos-Diaz

CEBU social crowd Butch Carungay , Garrison Rosseau and Amparito Lhuillier

NEW Makati Shang GM Philippe Caretti, Tom Zita and outgoing GM Jarlath Lynch


DELICIOUS food at Inagiku Japanese Restaurant at Shang Makati

Widows can become whole again

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

FOR THE BOOK "WIDOW, RESURRECTED," Paz Dolorfino Flores, PhD, interviewed 300 widows. All reached the conclusion that, after a while, they could be whole again.

Flores, who was widowed in 1987 after 18 years of marriage to doctor Rodolfo Flores, gathered the materials as part of a doctoral dissertation on stresses, coping mechanisms and caring attachments of widows.

Published by Fiat Lux (which means "let there be light") and printed by Mabini Publishing House, the book includes stories on Indira Gandhi, former Indian prime minister, and Golda Meir, former Israeli prime minister. Also featured are well-known widows in Manila.

How Flores was able to produce the book could be due to divine guidance she got on a visit to her son Rey Flores' farm in Antipolo.

She was looking for a church to attend Mass and someone brought her to a chapel inside a compound. She found out that blind people lived there.

The community is a project of the Ephpheta Foundation. Headed by Fr. Jess Fernandez, S.J., the foundation helps the blind.

Then and there, Flores decided that if she ever wrote a book, proceeds would go to the upkeep of the chapel. Another beneficiary would be a project of Msgr. Matt Garcia.

The book was launched in September at the Makati Sports Club with former First Lady Imelda Marcos as guest of honor.

In her foreword, Dr. Rita Palma Brawner says: "After her loss, a widow looks at an abyss, at what seemingly is an unfathomable chasm. But, gradually through her own effort, plus the support of her siblings, family and friends, the chasm gradually becomes narrower and she becomes whole again as in the case of the author, Dr. Paz Flores."

Edited by Dulce Festin-Baybay, the book is available at the Don Bosco religious store in Makati. Call 8105139.

Dr. Flores, "Tita Pachot" to everyone, holds seminars and workshops for widows and single parents. Please call 8198024 or text 0918-4500199.

Chapel blessing

Former Sen. Helena Benitez celebrated her 92nd birthday by having the blessing of the Chapel of the Holy Family inside the Mira-Nila compound where she and her family grew up.

She had always wanted a chapel built. The dream came true when her niece, Rosary Benitez, an architect, designed and built the chapel in 100 days. The third generation Kraut family did the stained-glass version of the Holy Family behind the altar.

Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona celebrated Mass after the blessing, together with Fr. Paul Marquez, Fr. Jun Pilotos, Fr. Alex Ramos, Fr. Frisco Entines and Fr. Ruben Areno.

"Tita Helen," as she is fondly called, says: "I can think of no better model and ideal of family solidarity, love and caring than the Holy Family."

Her mother, Francisca Tirona Benitez, who founded Philippine Women's University 87 years ago, put family and home values in the university's educational mission.

Model employee

When I go to the Indiana Post Office on Pilar Hidalgo Lim Street in Malate, I always go to the window of Ofelia R. Fontejon, a graduate of Aklan College. She taught for 10 years then moved to Manila. She has been with the Philippine postal system for 22 years.

I am always impressed by the efficient way Tita Ofie sells stamps, and always with a smile. She is always properly dressed and carefully made up. Being a simple government employee doesn't stop her from looking good and being efficient.

Back in RP

At least 800 Fil-Americans are touring the Philippines until July 22. Nora Castro-Bautista, supervising tourism operations officer for Team Northwest America, said ambassadors and tourism attachés were leading the Philippine tour aimed to assure *kababayan* abroad that the country was a safe and attractive global destination.

A brainchild of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, the tour covers Manila, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Davao, Palawan, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, Camiguin, Laoag, Vigan, Baguio and Laguna. Churches are included in the tour to remind the visitors of their religious and cultural heritage. For details, call Nora Bautista at 5251297 or 5254683.

Lady of Joy

The Marian title "Our Lady of Joy" was revealed in English July in 1988 by the Blessed Virgin Mary to "Ka Heddy" in Barangay Gatid, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

In November that year, the apocalyptic image of Our Lady of Joy or the Brown Mother was enthroned at her shrine at the Lawa ng Ina (located at Puntod-Gatid) amid a storm. The chapel became flooded as Laguna Lake overflowed.

The Our Lady of Joy feast is July 16, same as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's.

In action

After 15 years building the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in barrio Sta. Rosa, Marilao, Bulacan, Fr. Vic Robles undertakes a different kind of mission—Divine Mercy in action. Fr. Vic takes over the Bethlehem House of Bread Orphanage in Baliuag, Bulacan, home to 96 orphans and street children from babies to 12-year-olds.

Besides feeding the children, the orphanage also sends them to school.

Bringing with him the same faith and hard work that built the Divine Mercy Shrine, Fr. Vic is ready, with the help of Fr. Boyet Concepcion, to raise funds for the orphanage. Those who want to help can call Fr. Vic at (044) 7664977 or e-mail ingodsmercyfoundation@yahoo.com.ph.

Those who want sheltering for abused children can text Ephesus House at 0917-8176919.

> Sales of Flores' book will go to the Epheta chapel

Dream honeymoon package

THE NEW HYATT HOTEL AND Casino Manila's Ballroom is now open for special events and celebrations, particularly weddings.

The hotel is offering an exclusive Dream Honeymoon Package to the first 20 couples who will book until August their weddings at the Ballroom.

Call Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila local 7524.

"SAGALAHAN ng Parokya Concepcion" in Malabon City. Former child actress Star Villareal, featured *sagala*, wore a gown by Julius Nepomuceno. She was escorted by Dan Marion Vasquez. Maricar Tolosa, Mrs. World runner-up who was Reyna Emperatriz, wore a Jontie Martinez creation. The event was organized by the Malabon Designers Association.

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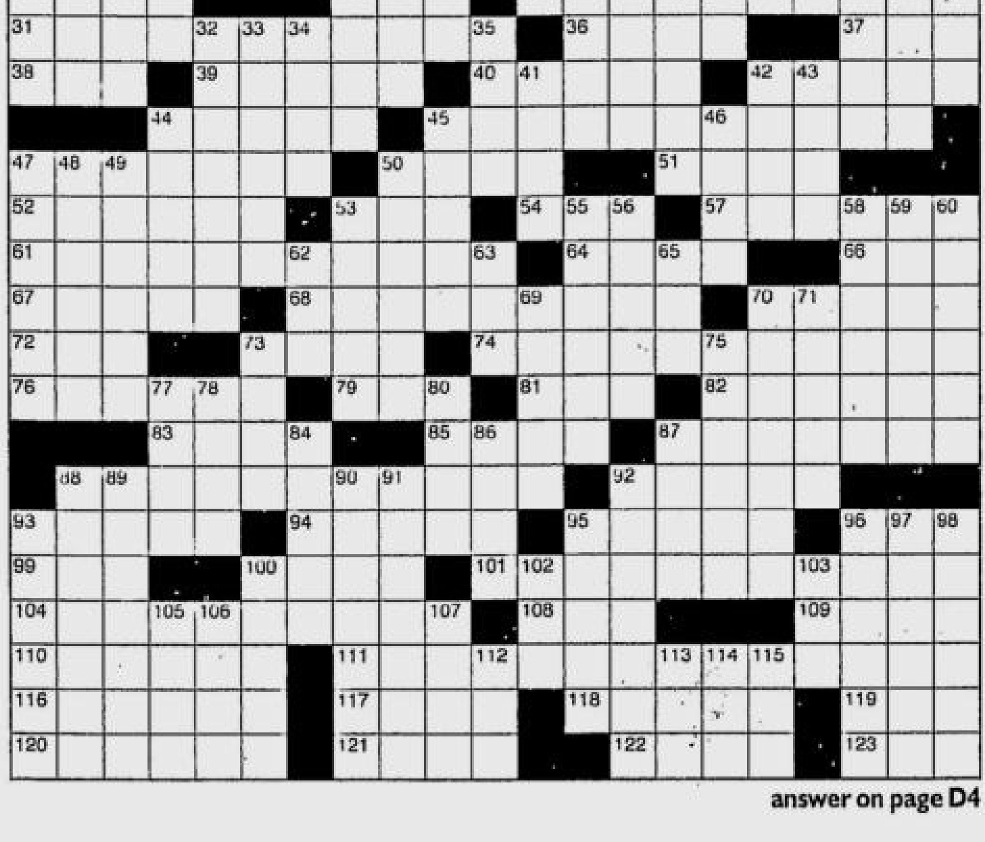
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

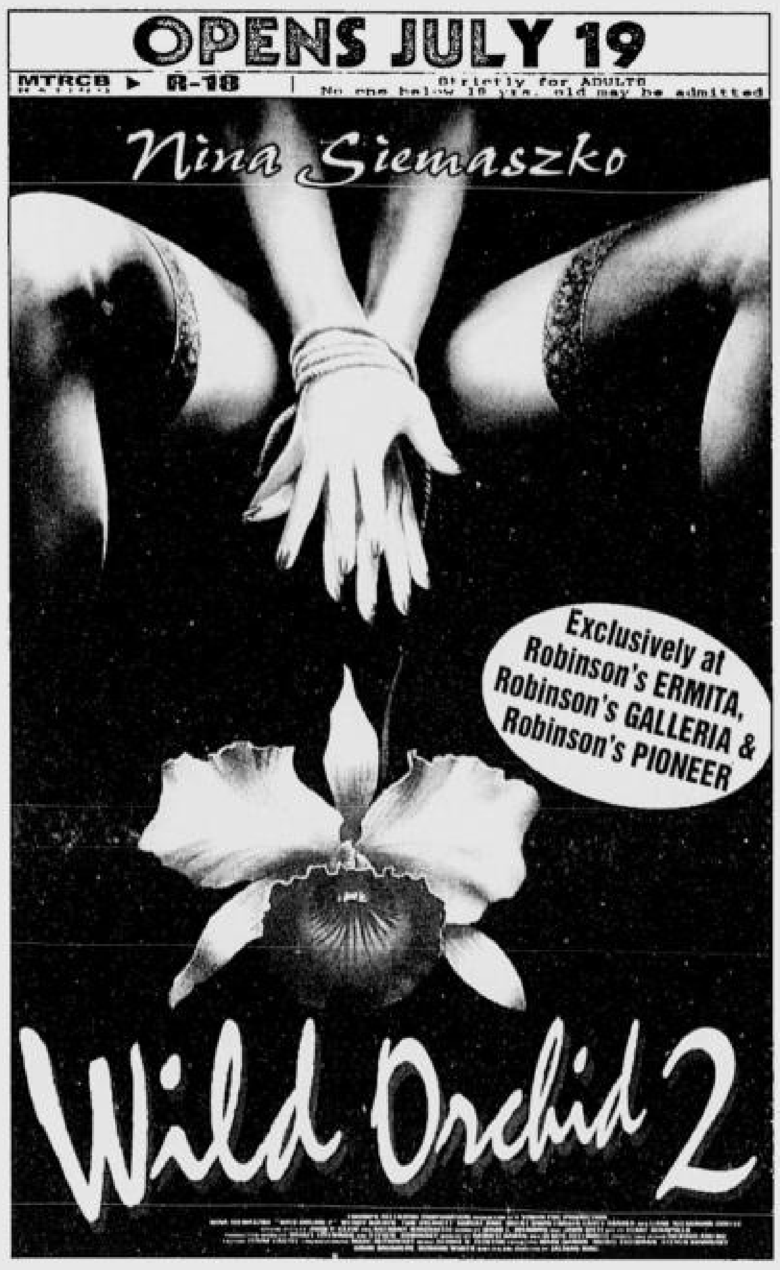
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo SOMETHING EXTRA

ACROSS
1 Wanna- — (imitators)
4 Done the crawl, e.g.
8 Merely
12 Makes ready
18 Sigh in a jacuzzi
19 Hysteria
21 — spumante
22 Gnawing critter
23 Unfeeling detective novelist?
26 Marcos of the Philippines
27 "That's clear"
28 China's Chiang — -shek
29 Frustrate a politician?
31 Haul a game-show host?
36 Ear piece?
37 Have a tab
38 They cross rds.
39 "Ciao!"
40 Healing plants
42 Biblical lawgiver
44 Have one's heart —
45 Send cyberads to a tennis player?
47 Toasters at receptions
50 Swear
51 Tiniest bit
52 Hurting
53 Suffix with south
54 — -fi
57 FDR part
61 Songwriter with silver hair?
64 Nylons, e.g.
66 Second mo.
67 Swampland
68 Spirited pop singer?
70 Lively frolic
72 Grow old
73 See 114-Down
74 Include an actress in the count?
76 One of the Borgias
79 Subj. for U.S. immigrants
81 Marina del —, CA
82 Headache
83 Sup in style
85 Give forth
87 Big cat
88 Nourished a variety show host?
92 Greedy king
93 Code creator
94 Actor Leary
95 Range of the Rockies
96 Pampering treatment, for short
99 Lofty trains
100 Frond, e.g.
101 Dexterous artist?
104 Enjoy an R&B singer's music?
108 Agnus — (lamb of God)
109 Erte's art
110 More conceited
111 Faithful actress?
116 Set on fire
117 Dollar bills
118 Cute Aussie critter
119 Bitter brew
120 Necessary
121 Puts turf over
122 Lovers' quarrel
123 Pa Clampett

DOWN
1 ABC's
2 Bugs a lot
3 Blacksmiths
4 CIA employee
5 Infant's outburst
6 Prefix with lateral
7 Dairy deliverers
8 Jelly holder
9 Gomer Pyle's org.
10 Great fame
11 Rocks that are sources of element #50
12 Light splitter
13 Frolic
14 Notion, in Nice
15 TV's "— Place"
16 Fund provider
17 Part of USA
20 Debussy's "— de Lune"
24 Tennis court divider
25 German article
30 Raw fish dish
32 Belgian language
33 Dormant
34 British prep school
35 Interstices
41 Gal
42 Tiny arachnid
43 Elliptical
44 Sticks around
45 Cheerful
46 Went by bus, e.g.
47 Hamburger since 1968
48 Madden
49 Fifth tires
50 Sweet liqueurs
53 Sidestep
55 Alpine hut
56 "— Have Eyes for You"
58 Anew
59 Haystack hider
60 Compliant person
62 Psyche segment
63 Mil. bigwig
65 Where slop is served
69 — to go (feelin' eager)
70 Doo-wop group
71 Irksome individuals
73 Course list?
75 Groundhog Day focus
77 Throws in
78 Increase
80 Strauss of jeans
84 Higher-ranking
86 Turn to pulp
87 Sympathy
88 Plant leaves
89 Novelist Caldwell
90 Primitive shelters
91 Dante work
92 Army doctors: Sl.
93 Attorney Belli
95 High, close-fitting collar, for short
96 1984 Leon Uris novel
97 Site
98 Made a carbon copy of
100 Baited
102 Naval VIP
103 Vitamin bottle abbr.
105 City in Oklahoma
106 Head, in Le Havre
107 Wished one could take back
112 Pluralizing letter
113 Indy 500 circuit
114 With 73-Across, served with ice cream
115 Crooner — "King" Cole



answer on page D4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SMALLVILLE's LOIS LANE STARS IN "THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2"

Erica Durance is Lois Lane in TV's "Smallville" and stars in New Line Cinema's latest sci-fi thriller "The Butterfly Effect 2"

TV's popular "*Smallville*" hottie **Erica Durance** who plays Lois Lane, has joined New Line Cinema's **"The Butterfly Effect 2."** the long awaited sequel to the 1994 No.1 US box-office hit that grossed more than $150M worldwide and made Ashton Kutcher a bankable star.

Since Durance has picked up a popular icon as Lois Lane on TV's "*Smallville*". it's been TV all the way for her, making appearances on "*Andromeda*". "*Stargate SG-1*", and finally "*Smallville*". which has won her the most delicious time in the spotlight.

After making her debut as Lois in season 4 and 5 of the show about young Clark Kent and his path to becoming the World's Greatest Hero, Durance's charm has paved her way to be added to the cast as a regular. And, she's loving it. "*It's nice to know that the fans thought I was the sexiest Lois Lane,*" she recently told FHM, who voted her as one of the world's sexiest woman.

With her career poised to take off and her first significant starring role in a movie, Erica Durance seems to be primed for a move to the Hollywood screen. Though the position of Lois Lane in the new Superman Returns movie was filled by Kate Bosworth, many "Smallville" fans wished that the film just naturally progressed out of the series with Erica playing the role of Lois Lane. *cr*

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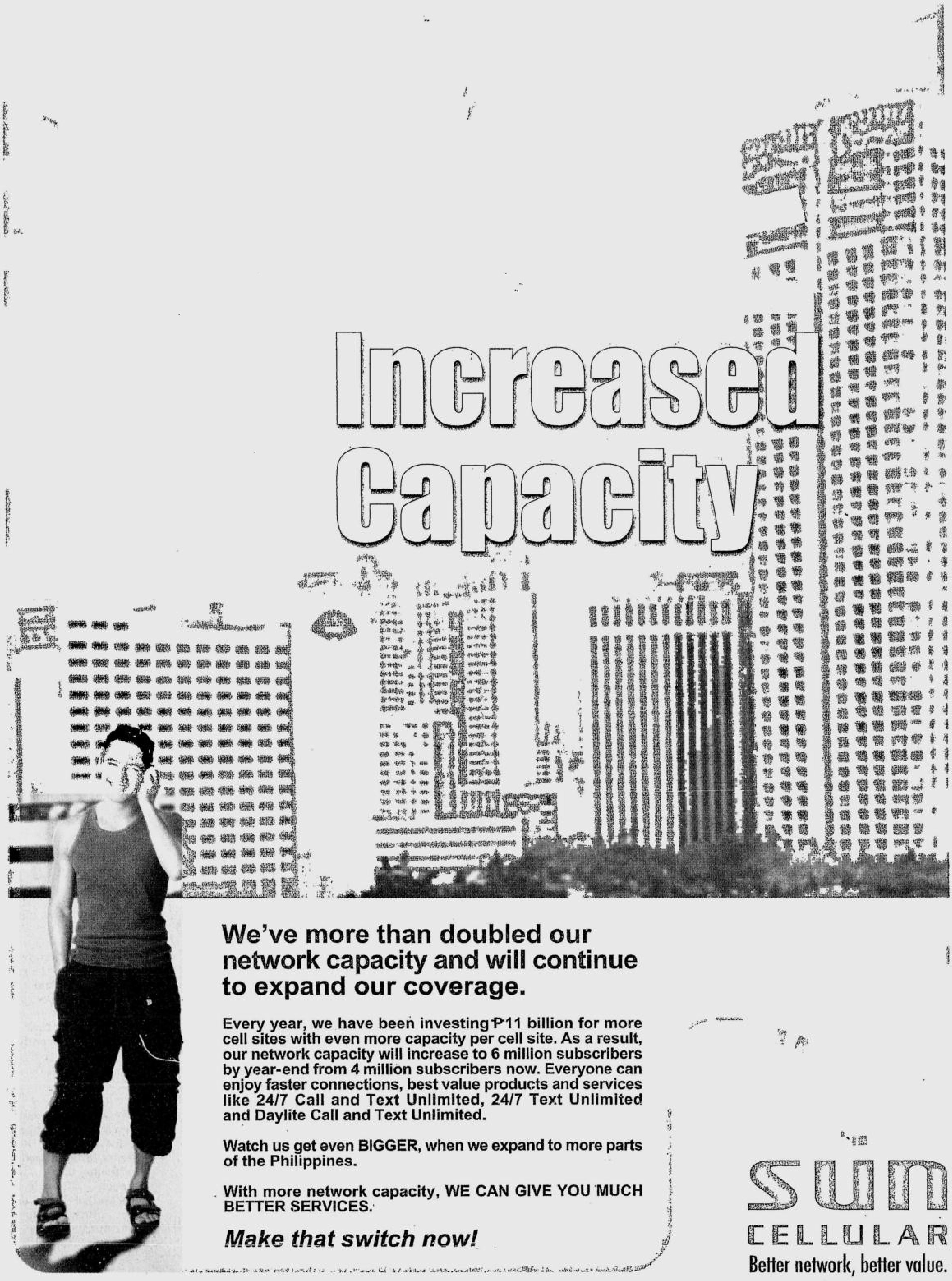

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SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2006

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 06-07-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites manufacturers / dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply and Delivery of various Gaming Chips

Approved Budget : One Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Thirty Six & 64/100 Dollars (US$ 184,036.64)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 6, 2006 – July 28, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 17, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	July 31, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	July 31, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Ninety Two & 02/100 Dollars (US$ 92.02) or Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety Nine & 03/100 Pesos (Php 5,199.03).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 4

(PDI-July 09 & 16, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites manufacturers/distributors/contractors and interested suppliers to a public bidding for:

One (1) lot Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of CCTV and Access Control Systems for the use of BSP Security Plant Complex (SPC) - Building A, Building D (Cash Department), Perimeter, Parking, Skywalk, Motor pool and Building D - Annex (CMC) per BSP's Terms of Reference.

The project is aimed to enhance the existing security measures to safeguard the lives and assets in the BSP-Security Plant Complex against all forms of security threats.

The two (2) stage bidding procedure under Section 30.4 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A of Republic Act No. 9184 relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply. The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicted in the Checklist of the Eligibility Requirements which may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on 17-28 July 2006 upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500 00

Interested suppliers must submit the eligibility requirements to the BAC, Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than 15 August 2006 2.00 P.M. (Philippine Time).

Eligibility of prospective bidder shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Interested bidder must have the following minimum qualifications:

1. Successfully installed and implemented projects for the past five (5) years with an aggregate amount of at least P100M or US$2.0M for CCTV and Access Control Systems. One (1) project should cost at least P25M or US$0.5M in any of the said system. Bidders should provide the following details:
   a. Name of the organization;
   b. Customer contact names, address and current telephone number, fax number, e-mail and web address;
   c. Contract amount and duration;
   d. Role(s) undertaken by the bidder at the reference site; and
2. Satisfactorily performed each completed contract/s for the required project.
3. The proposed equipment must be European Conformity (EC) and/or Underwriter Laboratory (UL) listed.

Eligible bidders shall submit an initial technical proposal to the BAC and should be prepared to make a presentation of their proposed equipment and implementation methodology, if required. The BAC's review of the submitted technical proposals may lead to a revised TOR. The BAC shall draw up the short list of suppliers with passing rate of 80%. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

50%	Company Profile, Applicable Experience and Personnel Qualification
50%	Technical Maintenance Capability

The BAC shall issue invitation(s) to Bid (ITB) only to short-listed bidders. Bid documents will be available upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50,000.00 to the BSP Cashier and upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement. In response to the ITB, bidders should submit a final technical proposal based on the revised TOR and a financial bid.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. Furthermore, BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - July 16, 2006)

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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 06-13-2006 DAV

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service for Casino Filipino – Davao

Brief Description : Location: Grand Regal Hotel, Lanang, Davao City
Slot Machine (SM) VIP Club, Apo View Hotel, Davao City
Req. Personnel: 40 janitors (28 – Males and 12 – Females) including a working supervisor

Contract Duration : Two (2) years

Approved Budget : Nine Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 9,200,000.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. (02) 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Davao.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 12, 2006 – August 10, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 28, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	August 11, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	August 11, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino - Davao

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Four Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (Php 4,600.00).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee – Casino Filipino-Davao.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee - Casino Filipino-Davao.

(Sgd) DOMINGO E. PABALAN JR.
Chairperson, BBAC Casino Filipino-Davao

(PDI – July 16 & 23, 2006)

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- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

III. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division
- 3 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCES: (For Medical Board Passers)

I. CV Radiological Sciences Division
II. Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division
III. Nuclear Medicine Division
- 1 year Fellowship Program is available for the above Residencies

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2006
- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager
Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI – July 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 Aug 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2006)

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet
Tel. Nos. (074) 422-2000 / (074) 422-2110 Fax No. (074) 422-2848

INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

Interested parties are hereby invited to a **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** and **SEALED BIDDING** for the supply of:

a) Three (3) units 69kv circuit breakers for the upgrading of the protective devices of BENECO's Atok 5 MVA Substation, Bulalacao 3:75 MVA Substation and Sinipsip 5 MVA Substation.
b) Differential Relays of BENECO's 2-20 MVA North Sanitary Camp Substation.

The **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** will be held on **July 27, 2006** at **10:00 A.M.** at the Punctuality Hall, BENECO Building, DPS Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City where the technical description and specification and other related matters will be discussed.

Prospective bidders must submit their Company Profile; Income Tax Returns and Audited Financial Statements for the past three (3) years and Track Record.

SEALED BIDS must be received on or before **August 15, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Punctuality Hall, BENECO Building, DPS Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City. **OPENING OF BIDS** will be on the same date, time and venue.

Only those who were present during the Pre-Qualification Conference and who submitted the above-enumerated requirements will be allowed during the Bidding Proper.

BENECO reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the BENECO.

THE PBAC

Approved for publication:

(Sgd.) **GERARDO P. VERZOSA**
General Manager

(PDI – July 16 & 22, 2006)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Tarlac
Municipality of Sta. Ignacia
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO REBID

July 16, 2006
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the ***Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)*** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in Daya Ti Ili ARC, Barangays Cabugbugan and Timmaguab, Municipality of Sta. Ignacia, Province of Tarlac. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Sta. Ignacia, Province of Tarlac and Implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Rehabilitation of 2.48kms. Timmaguab – Cabugbugan Road*** under ***Contract No. RIRR 06 203 BUL-Z.***

Project Duration: 90 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PhP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: PhP 65,000.00
Bid Closing Date: August 15, 2006 @ 10:00 AM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

No.	Scope of Work	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	7,980.00	sq.m.
12	Roadway Excavation	1,536.00	cu.m.
14 (1)	Embankment (Using excavated materials)	1,536.00	cu.m.
14 (2)	Embankment (Using borrow materials)	780.80	cu.m.
15	Subgrade Preparation	1,380.00	sq.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	1,488.80	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,488.80	cu.m.
31	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	200.00	sq.m.
50	Installation of RCPC w/ Headwall	54.00	ln.m.
SPL	Spillway (Reinf. Concrete Structure)	30.00	ln.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Vibratory Road Roller (1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned; 10 Wheeler Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Water Truck (1 unit)-owned; Soil Laboratory/Field Testing Equipment (1 lot)-owned; survey instruments (1 set)-owned/leased

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Sta. Ignacia, Province of Tarlac, starting July 17, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on August 1, 2006 at 10:00 AM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP65,000.00 in the form of: Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Sta. Ignacia, Province of Tarlac, on or before the Bid closing date on August 15, 2006 at 10:00 AM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(SGD) **ADOLFO P. FOLLOSCO**
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – July 16, 2006)

Philippine International Trading Corporation
PITC

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTATION OF SPECIAL RICE VARIETIES

The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) invites all interested Farmers Cooperatives/Groups/Associations/Private Rice Traders with valid and updated **NFA License to Import** to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) on or before 21 July 2006 for the Importation of 15,000 MT Fancy/Premium/Glutinous Rice Varieties in bags.

Minimum volume to be allocated per qualified participant shall be 500 MT but not to exceed 1,000 MT. Should the total quantity received from LOIs submitted exceed 15,000 MT, the allocation per importer shall be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.

The Terms of Reference and Guidelines/ Mechanics will be available for issuance during office hours starting 10 July 2006, weekdays only, from Imports Department at the 10th Floor NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City and with telephone nos. 892-1560, 892-1627 and 818-9801 locals 421, 393 and 334.

(Sgd.) **MARIO M. LEYGO**
Vice President

(PDI – July 16, 2006)

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dti

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various brand new motor vehicles for DTI, with an approved budget of Twelve million seven hundred ninety-five thousand pesos (Php 12,795,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 17 July 2006 until 5 P.M. of 24 July 2006 during office hours at the Supply Section, General Administrative Service, Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Claudio H. Averilla, with telephone number 751-4996. A pre-bid conference will be held on 24 July 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 7 August 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The DTI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 16 & 23, 2006)

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Website: www.poea.gov.ph, email: info@poea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget Ceiling for the Contract	DATE & TIME		Price of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)
		Pre-BID Conference	Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bid Docs	
1. Repainting and Restoration of BFO Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1)	P3,055,525.99	Aug. 16, 2006, 10 am, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication	August 28, 2006, 9:30 am, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication, POEA	P3,000.00
2. Renovation of POEA Auditorium	P2,344,374.38	Aug. 16, 2006, 2 pm, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication	August 28, 2006, 2 pm, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication, POEA	P2,500.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All Particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

For the **Repainting and Restoration of Blas F. Ople Bldg. Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1)**

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 17 to August 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 17 to August 1, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 17 to August 1, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 4 to 11, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	August 16, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 28, 2006, 9:30 am, Conference Room, Office of the DA for Licensing and Adjudication, 4/F BFO Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

For the **Renovation of the POEA Auditorium**

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 17 to August 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 17 to August 1, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 17 to August 1, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 4 to 11, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	August 16, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 28, 2006, 2:00 pm, Conference Room, Office of the DA for Licensing and Adjudication, 4/F BFO Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at *BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication, 4/F Blas F. Ople Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City*, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,000.00** for the **Repainting and Restoration of the POEA Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1)** and **P850.00** for the **Renovation of the POEA Auditorium** to the POEA Cashier, 5/F Blas F. Ople Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,000.00** for the **Repainting and Restoration of the POEA Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1)** and **P1,650.00** for the **Renovation of the POEA Auditorium** to the POEA Cashier.

The POEA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ATTY. VIVECA C. CATALIG**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 16 & 23, 2006)

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- At least 4-5 years business implementation and user support experience on an enterprise level. Experience in performing detailed requirements gathering and coordination of specific functional designs for the development of custom solutions, including reports, extensions, interfaces and data conversions.
- The ideal candidate should have a BS degree in Computer Science or Accounting or related field. A CPA is ideal but not required.
- The job requires frequent travels to countries within the Asia Pacific region.
- Relocation to Davao City is a must.

Please forward your credentials (CODE: BUSINESS ANALYST) to Human Resources, Del Monte Fresh Produce (Phils.) Inc., Powerhouse Bldg, Km. 9, Bo. Pampanga, Davao City 8000 or e-mail to: JRatilla@Freshdelmonte.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for interview.

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CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for **TRANSFORMERS AND WOODPOLES.**

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman Clarence F. Jacinto)
   a. Company Profile
   b. Business Registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years
   g. Financial Statement
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.
Deadline for submission of requirements, July 25, 2006.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

(PDI – July 9 & 16, 2006)

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NREA meeting set

THE NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION, the one-stop trade organization, will honor its outstanding members on July 31 during its traditional mid-year business meeting, honor-dinner and thanksgiving mass starting 6 p.m. at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, it was learned from NREA vice president Raphael G. Baylon, event organizer.

Organizationman Jose V. Manalad, NREA founding chairman and current president, announced that architect. Nestor S. Mangio, NREA board chair and president of Central Country Estate Inc will be elevated to the NREA Hall of Fame, the second awardee in that category in fifteen (15) years.

Also to be given honor are the first four NREA members who had been conferred their respective Doctors of Philosophy degrees: architect Nathaniel von Einsiedel, Congressman Eduardo C. Zialcita, former Rep. Dante V. Liban and engineer Reynaldo A. Carpio; while special honors will be conferred on Palafox Associates for placing 94th among the top architectural firms in the world, up from its previous ranking of 104th.

The occasion, which also coincides with the birth anniversary of the NREA founder, will be capped by an honor-dinner followed by fellowships, including testimonials in honor of the birthday celebrator.

Congressman Eudardo Zialcita, chairman of the House Committee on Housing & Urban Development, will also discuss the salient features proposing changes to the charters of the National Housing Authority, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Home Guaranty Corp. and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. and its effect to the realty and housing industry.

Non-members may attend by calling NREA Secretariat at telephones 913-4463 and 912-3492.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Deed of Extra-Judicial Settlement of ARSENIO SY SANTOS SR Estate among the heirs under Doc No 479 Page 97 Book 98 Registry of Atty Patricio Boncayao Jr. Of Muntinlupa City
(PDI-July 2,9&16,2006)

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby Given that the Estate of the late GUALBERTO DELA PENA MIRANDA was Extrajudicially settled among his Heirs on Jan 12 2006 Per Doc No.108 Page No 23 Book No 1 Series of 2006 Under Notary Public Atty Tomas S. Macasaet
(PDI July 9,16 &23,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. EDGARDO VERA ENRIQUEZ & THELMA RAMOS PALOMAR-ENRIQUEZ was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#378 Page#VIII Book#262 series of 2005 by Notary Public Atty. Antonio K. Resurreccion of Obando, Bulacan.
(PDI July 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES T. MALABANAN has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 12, Page No. 3, Book No. 70, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Register of Notary Public Atty. Daniel Balanoba of Quezon City.
(July 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is Hereby given that the ESTATE of NORBERTO CUSI has been EXTRA - JUDICIALLY SETTLED by His Heirs as Per Doc. No. 490;Page No.99;Book No.II;Series of 2006 of Atty. Denis C. Macatangay,A. Notary Public for and in the City of Batangas.
(PDI-July 16,23 & 30'2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RUFINO JOAQUIN MAMONONG & ROSENDA SARMIENTO - MAMONONG was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#476 Page#97 Book#34 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty. Tomas M. Perez of Taguig City.
(PDI-July 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DAVIDSON ABAYON was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#202 Page#336 Book#75 series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI-July 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JULIA B. PIMENTEL was extrajudicially settled by her heirs on April 20, 2006, per Doc No. 003499, Series of 2006 and JULIETA PIMENTEL PINEDA before Marina Lourdes C. Legaspi, Consul of the Philippines in New York, USA; and before Patrick John V. Hidalgo, Consul of the Philippines in Illinois, USA, by Aurora Pimentel and Gloria Pimentel, who are residents of Chicago, Illinos,USA.
(PDI-July 2, 9 & 16, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Club Filipino Membership Cert #2353 in the name of Lourdes D. Gutierrez. If no contest received, new cerificate will be issued.
(PDI-July 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Notice is given that MWC Stk Cert. #004851 in the name of Demosthenes &/or Michaelangelo &/or Michelle Du is lost. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued. (July 2,9&16,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the following FMF Development Corp. stock certificate no. 19798 & 19799 issued to CECILIA A. LLAMAS was reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- July 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

PERSONAL

O Great St. Joseph of Cupertino who while on earth did obtain from God the grace to be asked at your examination only the questions you knew, obtain for me a like favour in the examinations I am now preparing. IN return I promise to make you known and cause you to be invoked. Through Christ our Lord. St. Joseph of Cupertino, Pray for us. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Oh Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my love ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. JCG

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GLORIA RAMALLOSA DY SUN
March 25,1921 – July 14, 2006

Peacefully joined our Lord and her beloved husband, the late Dr. Vicente Dy Sun, Sr. on July 14, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved children Vicente, Jr. (+) & Rosario, Norma Edita & Donelcio, J. Victory & Olivia, Alberto & Margarita, Alfredo (+). Her Grandchildren Leslie Ann & Luis Joaquin, Lindsay Joy, Laurie Jane, Kathleen Lourdes, Mary Ann & Reynaldo, Jennifer, Michael Eric & Arlene, Jonathan & Ma. Rustica, Rachelle & Jack, Aldrin Vincent & Leslie Beth, Valerie Gloriane, Allen Victor and Melody Jane, great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul and everlasting joy in the eternal kingdom of our creator.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel Felicidad, Arlington Funeral Homes, at G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 22, 2006, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at the Family Private Mausoleum at the Chinese Cemetery, Jose P. Rizal Avenue Extension, Sta. Cruz, Metro Manila.

Note: Please refrain from sending flowers.

Sgt. MARIANO CIFRA ISLA

Retired Pasay City Policeman

Died in the grace of our Lord on June 28, 2006
at the St. Mary's Hospital in Reno, Nevada, USA
at the age of 82.

He is survived by his wife **Ester Gueco Isla**; son **Atty. Andy G. Isla** (wife **Eleanor**); daughter **Cynthia** (husband **Joe A. Sigua**); grandchildren **Marijoyce & Jovi Pontillas**, **Erwin Matthew & Mary Aihla Jalandoni Sigua**, **Carlo & Catherine**, **Andrew**, **Sherlyn Grace**, **Paolo**; sister **Crispina Isla**; brother **Raymundo Isla**; great grandchildren **John Patrick**, **Joey** and **Jolene Pontillas**, **Isabella Leonee Jalandoni Sigua**, **Maxine** and **Charlene Isla**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at the Rizal Funeral Homes, 438 Cementina St. cor. Libertad, Pasay City.

Holy Mass will be held on July 22, 2006 at San Roque Church at 9:30 a.m. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Memory of
Our Beloved Mother

Cresida "Frida" Canlas Tueres

On her 8th death anniversary
this July 16, 2006

Masses shall be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parishes .... *Green Meadows / E. Rodriguez, Q.C.*	6:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio .... *Dasmariñas Village, Makati City*	4:30 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose .... *Greenhills, San Juan*	6:15 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Parish .... *Panay Ave., Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish .... *New Manila, Q.C.*	8:30 a.m. 6:15 p.m.

To my dearly beloved mother

ELVIRA NICOLAS TALENS

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 11, 2006 at the age of 74.

Her loving daughter **Malou Talens** and granddaughter **Andee**, together with relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Cremation will take place at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park on July 18, 2006 after the 6:30 am Mass at the Holy Family chapel in Mount Carmel Church, Manila.

A Mass will also be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Maysilo, Malabon City at 2:30 pm followed by the burial of ashes.

> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."**
>
> —John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND APOLOGY

I, **A & I GROCERY/ T & P STORE,** represented by **TONY T. SIA,** respondent in I.S. No. 2005-1268 hereby unreservedly apologize to **RENO FOODS, INC.** for selling in good faith, liver spread products bearing the trademark **RENO** without prior knowledge that **RENO FOODS, INC.** owns this mark.

By doing so, **A & I GROCERY/ T & P STORE** have contravened the Intellectual Property Code (Republic Act No. 8293) and infringed upon the trademark of **RENO FOODS, INC.**

A & I GROCERY/ T & P STORE hereby express my support and expressly states its recognition that the **RENO** mark is owned and is a registered trademark of **RENO FOODS, INC.** and is fully protected under Philippine law.

Delicious Wholesome Reno BRAND LIVER SPREAD

A & I GROCERY/ T & P STORE recognizes that under Philippine laws, it is a violation of another's trademark to manufacture, sell, offer to sell, and/or distribute products bearing unauthorized reproductions of such trademark.

A & I GROCERY/ T & P STORE thanks **RENO FOODS, INC.** for the opportunity to reform and **A & I GROCERY/ T & P STORE** will never commit any infringement again.

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Counsel for the Private Complainant
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VIB' ROLLER (Compactors)	KOMATSU	JV32W-1A	3 T	
DUMP TRUCK	ISUZU	10PB1	15 TON	
BULLDOZER	CAT	D4G		
EXCAVATOR (Backhoe)	DAEWOO	SOLAR220	1.0 CU.M.	
CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT	MARUTOMO		30 CU.M./HR	with Silo 1200 bags cap.
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This is to certify the public that **ROCHELLE "MAGGIE" / "CHELLIE" L. REYES** is no longer connected with SMITH BELL MANPOWER SERVICES, INC. as she resigned effective March 20, 2006. Smith Bell Manpower Services, Inc. will not honor any transactions that she might enter into on behalf of **SMITH BELL MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.**

(PDI – July 16, 2006)

Ecop symposium

WITH THE PROMULGATION OF WAGE Order No. NCR-12 providing for a P25 daily wage increase to private sector minimum wage earners in the metropolis effective last July 11, what are the economic, political and other issues that need to be addressed?

What adjustments will organizations and firms undertake to cope with the recently issued wage order?

It is in this light that the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) is spearheading a Symposium on Wage Order No. NCR-12 on July 18, 1:00-5:00 pm at the Ecop Training Center.

Department of Labor and Employment-National Capital Region (DOLE-NCR) Director Ricardo Martinez, Sr., who also chairs the NCR Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board, will shed light and tackle relevant issues on the provisions of the new wage order as well as the mechanics of its implementation.

The half-day symposium will likewise enable entrepreneurs, executive and human resource practitioners to gain an extensive overview of the new wage order and be apprised of current realities on wage setting in the Philippines.

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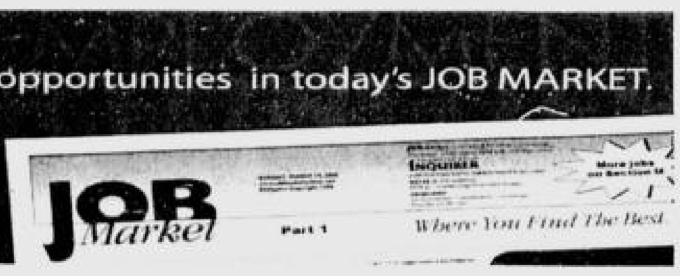

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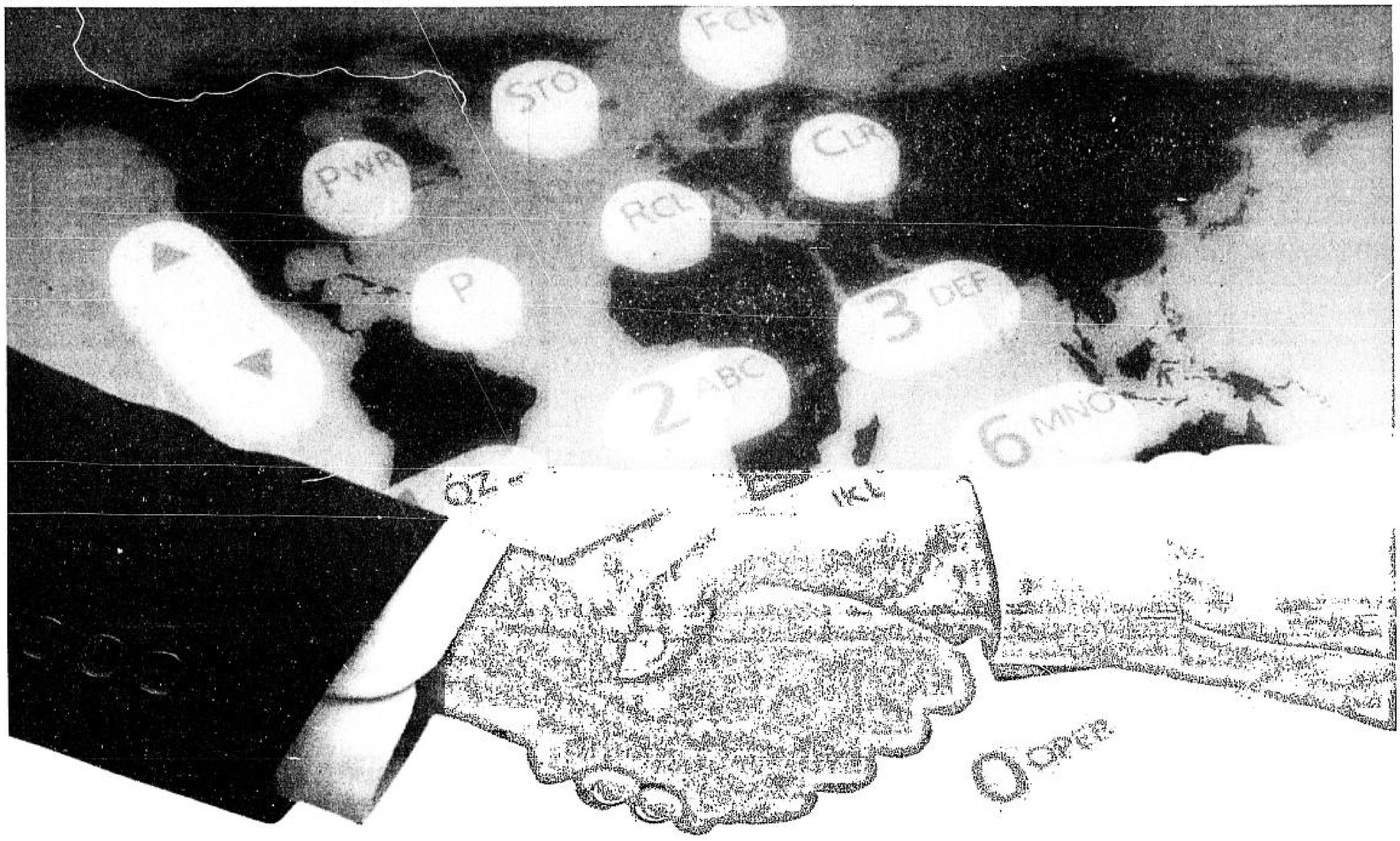

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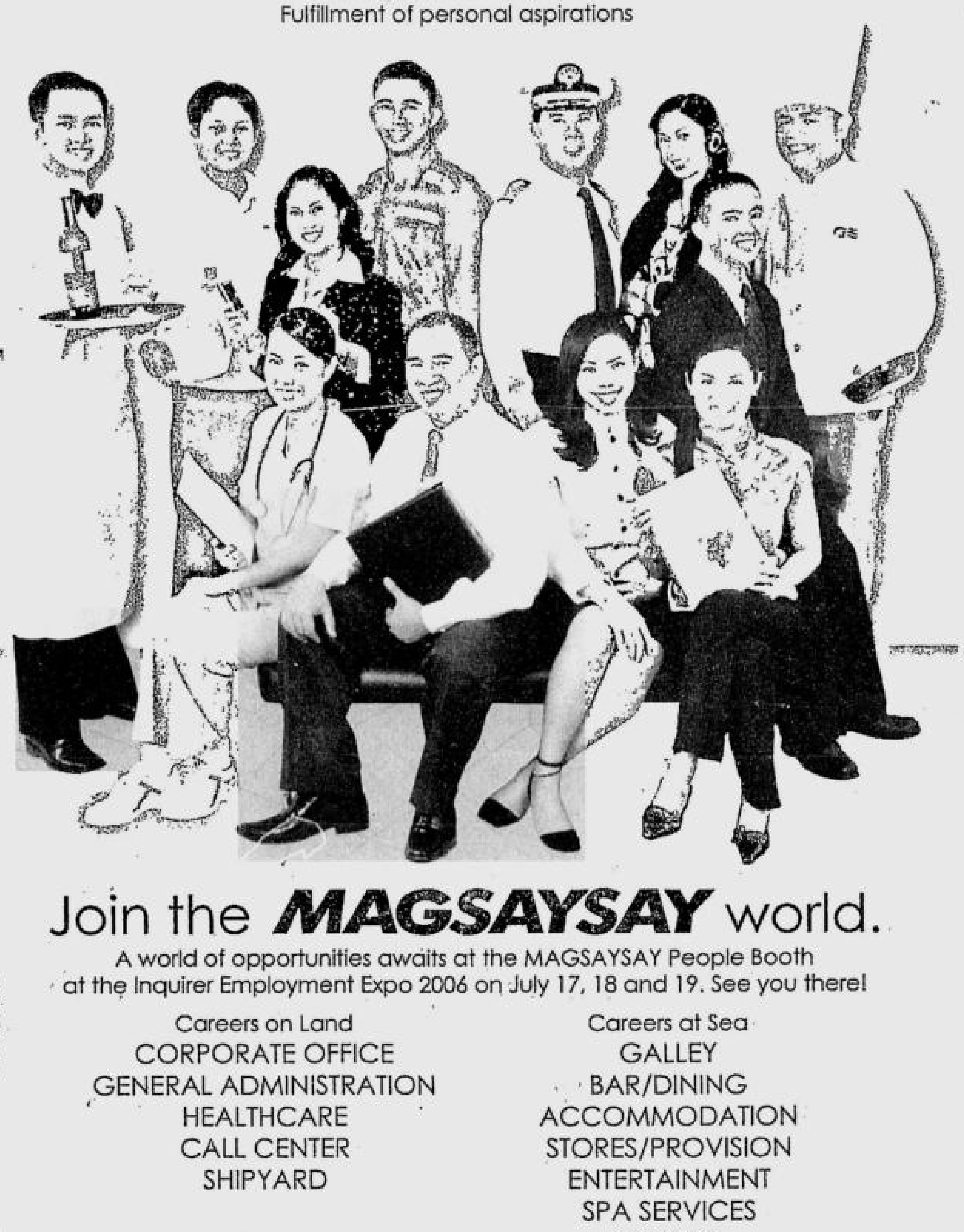

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PROGRAMMER/ SOFTWARE ENGINEER

- At least 1 - 2 years PC-based programming;
- Must have knowledge/ skills with any of the following — applications development tools (C++, SQL (PL-SQL/T-SQL/ MYSQL), Visual Basic 6, Unix Shell Scripting); Database development (MS Access, Oracle, SQL Server, FoxPro, COBOL); Web Programming (HTML, XML, CGI, PHP, CSS, Java, ASP, .NET);

HELPDESK SPECIALIST/ APPLICATION SUPPORT ENGINEER

- At least 6 months working experience in a similar capacity from a customer service company;
- Must have knowledge with any of the following applications development tools (C or C++, Visual Basic 6, SQL, Java);
- Familiarization with PC troubleshooting, LAN/ WAN, Linux, Unix would be an advantage;
- Residents of Cavite and nearby provinces are encouraged to apply.

WEB DEVELOPER

- 1 - 2 years working experience in Web Administration/ Systems Administrations;
- Proficiency in Visual Basic 6, HTML, JSP, CSS, CGI, PHP, ASP, ASP.NET, C#, MS SQL/ MySQL

CERTIFIED ORACLE ADMINISTRATOR

- Highly proficient in the use of Oracle10i, PL/SQL and SQL development;
- With 2 to 3 years experience in design, development, implementation and support of Oracle database system.

for positions listed above, email resumé at: japortuguez@microsrv.net

JAVA / ORACLE PROGRAMMERS

- Methodical and analytical, highly adaptable & flexible.
- With 1 to 2 years programming experiences in Java and C++, J2EE, Javascript.
- Familiarization/ knowledge in mainstream RDBMS – SQL Server, Oracle, DB2 & Unix Shell

LOTUS NOTES ADMINISTRATOR

- 2 years in administration of Lotus Notes/ Domino R5.x / R6.x including installation, troubleshooting and upgrading from previous Lotus Notes Clients;
- Familiarity with e-mail related protocols such as SMTP, IMAP, & POP, global remote access solutions and wireless applications;
- Working knowledge in UNIX and Windows 2000/ NT Servers

SENIOR SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

- 3 years working experience as System Administrator;
- Technical knowledge in Back-up and Recovery, Tuning, Fault Analysis, Shell Scripting, and in Capacity Planning;
- Certified SUN System Admin. I & II. (will be an advantage).

TECHNICAL SERVICE ENGINEERNETWORK ENGINEER

- At least 1 year related work experience in providing hardware Technical Support;
- Basic knowledge in troubleshooting and repair of desktop & notebook computers, software configuration and installation, Network Operating System, Unix, Linux, LAN/ WAN experience;
- Familiarization with any applications development tools (e.g. C or C++, Visual Basic) would be an advantage but not required:

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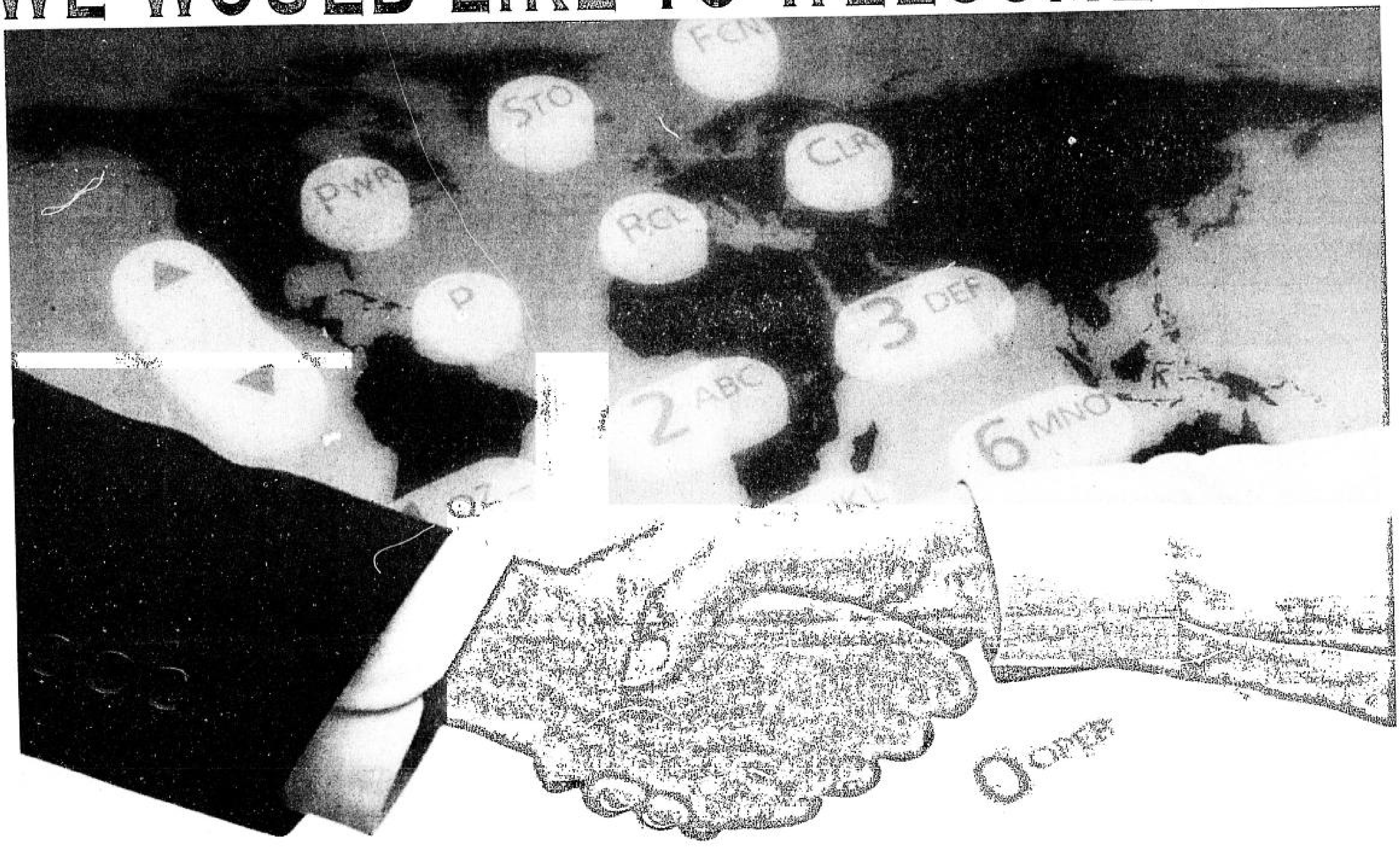

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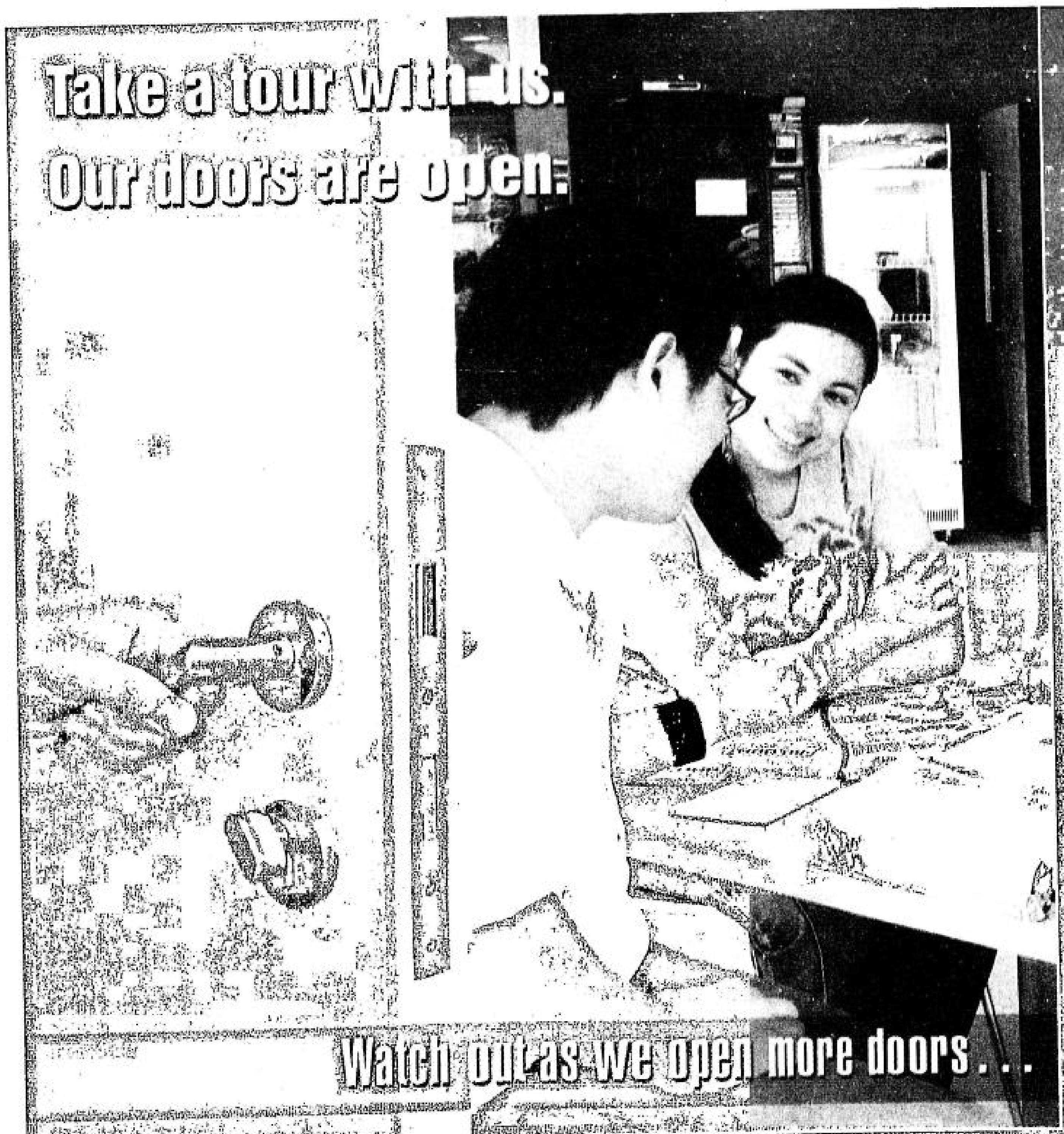

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- At least five (5) years experience as sales representative
- Excellent analytical and conceptual thinking
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills

Room and Housekeeping Manager (Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel)

- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least three (3) years work experience in hotel management
- At least 1 year work experience in room and housekeeping
- Excellent leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills

SUPERVISORY

Accounting Supervisor (Makati)

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least two (2) years work experience in related field
- Good supervisory and interpersonal skills
- Above average analytical skills
- Computer literate

Financial Reporting Compliance Supervisor (Makati)

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least three (3) years work experience in the field of corporate taxation/tax accounting
- In-depth knowledge of tax laws and BSP/SEC/DTI regulations

IT Audit Supervisor

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy, Electronics and Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)
- At least two (2) years Audit work experience, preferably in risk-based audits

Building Administrator (Cagayan De Oro)

- Graduate of Electrical, Mechanical or Civil Engineering and/or Architecture
- Preferably with Professional License
- At least three (3) years work experience in building administration & maintenance and coordination with Tenants, Suppliers, Contractors
- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Strong organizational & leadership skills
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- Graduate of B.A. Fine Arts, Advertising or any related course
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- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Excellent customer service
- Strong leadership skills
- Results-oriented, patient & flexible

Branch Operations Manager/ Sales Supervisor (Makati)

- Graduate of any business-related course
- At least three (3) years work experience in related to sales/marketing
- Honest, flexible, results-oriented
- Excellent customer service

Store Supervisor (NCR)

- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business-related course
- At least one (1) year retail sales/marketing/customer service experience in a supervisory capacity
- Honest, flexible, hardworking and with above average selling skills

Executive Secretary (Makati)

- Graduate of any business-related course, Office Administration, Mass Communication, or any course related to the function of the unit
- At least three (3) years work experience as a secretary
- Preferably with experience in office management
- With basic supervisory skills
- Excellent communication skills.

TECHNICAL STAFF

Accounting Staff (Makati, Cebu, Iloilo)

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- With or without working experience
- Hardworking and willing to work overtime
- Computer literate
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Treasury Analyst

- Graduate of any four (4) years college business course
- With at least one (1) to two (2) years work experience in accounting in operations, bank branches and corporate treasury
- Familiarity with bank products and services

Auditor (Makati)

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Fiscal Compliance Coordinator (Iloilo)

- Graduate of any business-related course
- With or without working experience
- Hardworking & trustworthy
- Computer literate

Organizational Development Specialist (Makati)

- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management/ Personnel Management or any Social Science course
- At least one (1) year work experience in the field of Human Resources/ Organization Development
- Analytical and Conceptual Thinker
- Results-oriented, flexible and with high regard for confidentiality

Business Development Specialist (Makati)

- Graduate of any business-related course, preferably BS Accountancy
- With working knowledge in Financial Statement Analysis
- With at least six (6) months work experience in related field

Business Tie-Up Analyst (Makati)

- Graduate of any business-related course, preferably Marketing
- At least one (1) year work experience
- Conceptual and analytical thinker
- Adept with figures
- Good in oral and written communication skills
- Results-oriented, flexible and innovative

IT Programmer (Makati)

- Graduate of a 4-year Computer Programming course or any related field
- With at least 2 years of extensive experience in Visual Basic 6 programming
- With at least 1 year experience in SQL programming
- With at least 1 year experience in MS SQL Server
- Knowledgeable in Crystal Report tool
- With at least 1 year experience in TCP/IP, CLient Server Environment
- With at least 1 year experience in Systems Analysis and Design
- Must be single, male and willing to work long hours
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to work on a project basis

Information Technology Assistant (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao)

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Programming or Computer Engineering
- At least one (1) year work experience in related field
- Advanced computer literacy
- With knowledge in PC hardware/software troubleshooting & dial-up networking

Engineer (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)

- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering or Architecture
- At least one (1) year experience in building maintenance and construction
- Preferably licensed Engineer or Architect
- With knowledge in AUTOCAD applications

Business Training Coordinator (Makati)

- Graduate of any business-related course or Social Science
- At least one (1) year work experience in training
- Excellent command in English and Filipino
- Computer literate, with good interpersonal relationship and work organization

Human Resources Staff (Makati, Pangasinan, Bacolod)

- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management/Personnel Management, any Social Science course
- With working knowledge on Psychometrics and Psychological testing
- Advanced computer literacy
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Administrative Assistant (NCR, Bacolod)

- Graduate of any business-related course, Office Administration, Mass Communication, any four (4)-year college course or B.S. Secretarial
- At least one (1) year work experience as a Secretary or Administrative Assistant
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Flexible and reliable

Branch (Pawnshop) Personnel (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)

- Graduate of any business-related course or any four (4)-year college course with at least 6 units in Management
- With or without working experience
- With pleasing personality and of good moral character
- Computer literate

Jewelry Sales Associate (Makati, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas, Bacolod)

- Graduate of any four (4)-year college course
- Preferably with experience in retail sales or merchandising
- At least 5'3 in height
- With pleasing personality, good communication skills
- Computer literate

Driver/Messenger (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)

- At least 2nd year college/Auto Mechanic, Automotive or any four (4)-year college course
- With professional driver's license
- Has basic skills in vehicle troubleshooting
- Punctual, dependable and trustworthy

Interested individuals may send or handcarry their resumé recent 2X2 photo, and photocopy of transcript of records, Diploma and certificate of graduation, NBI clearance, police clearance, Barangay clearance, letter of application to:

MANPOWER PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Human Resources Division
3/F PJL Corporate Centre, 1782 Nicanor Garcia cor.
Candelaria Sts., 1200 Makati City

You may also email your applications to mpr_podd@pjlhuillier.com.
For applicants in Visayas and Mindanao, you may send your applications to the following Satellite Offices:

Corporate Services Group Satellite Office - Cebu
Mr. Lodegario T. Rollan
Manpower Planning & Recruitment Department
Cebuana Lhuillier Regional Office
PJL2 No. 6 Acasia St., Lahug
6000 Cebu City

Corporate Services Group Satellite Office - Bacolod
Ms. Vanessa L. Balang
Manpower Planning & Recruitment Department
Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop
San Sebastian St., 6100 Bacolod City

Corporate Services Group Satellite Office - Davao
Ms. Norhatta T. Petilos
Manpower Planning & Recruitment Department
Corner Juna Subdivision
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(In front of NCC Mall)

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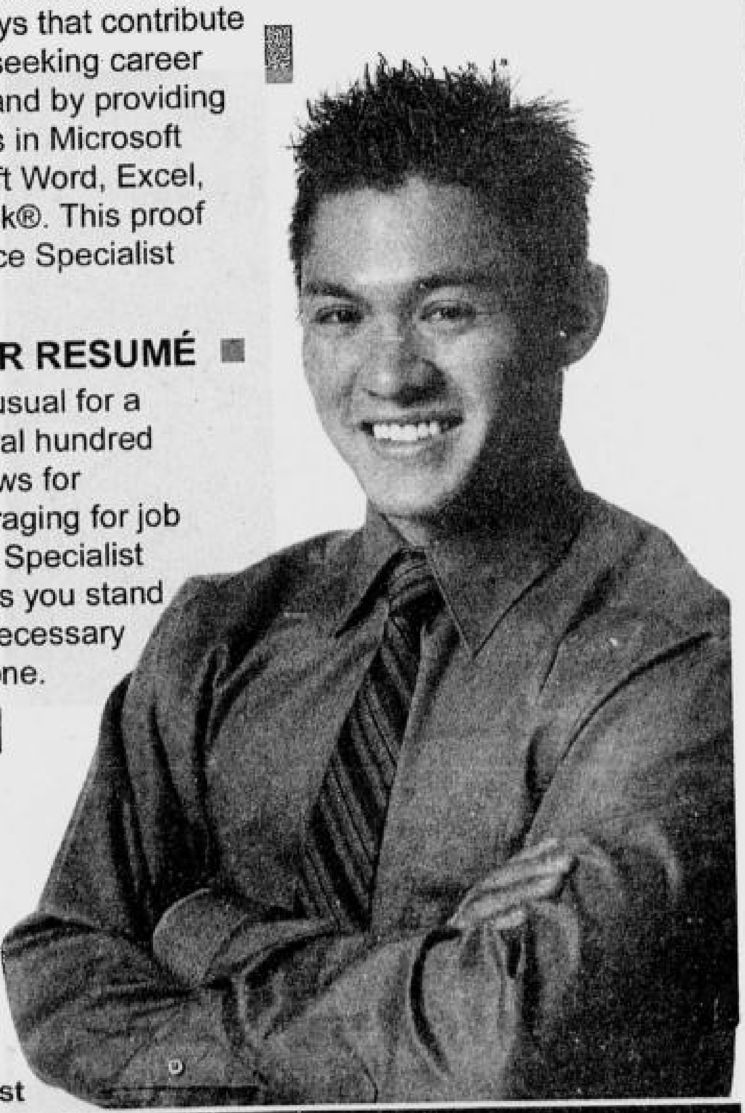

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- Trace Computer & Business College - 881.6960
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- STI College - Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija - (044) 463.3438
- Discover & Explore Computer Ctr., Pampanga - (047) 223.5976
- Asian Institute of Mnagement, Makati - (02) 892.4011
- Southville Foreign Colleges, Parañaque - (02) 820.5958
- De La Salle Lipa, Inc. Lipa Batangas- (043) 756.1849
- ICC Alabang - (02) 850.6077
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- ICC Rosario, Cavite - (046) 471.4839
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- Review drafts of income tax returns, financial statements and audit reports for financial audits, and report on findings and recommendations for other engagements
- Ensure timely completion and submission of management letters and other deliverables to clients

Requirements:

- A Certified Public Accountant
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- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
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- Willingness to work long hours
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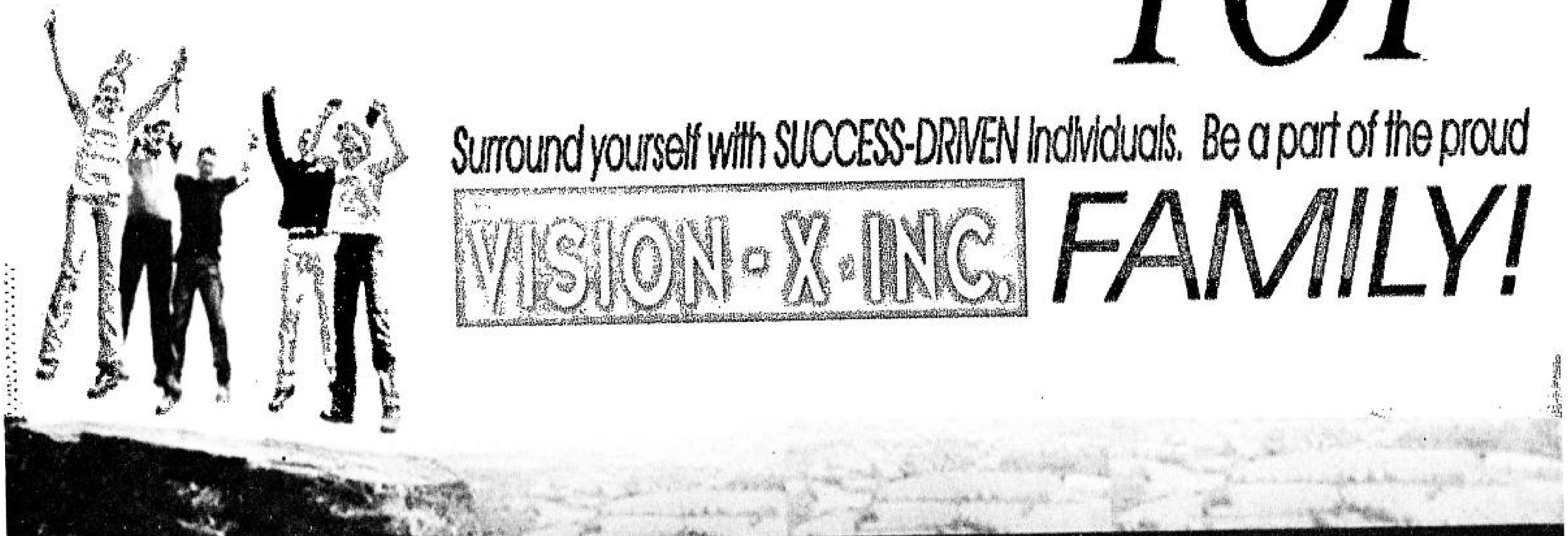

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At least 3-4 years experience in Pipelaying/Sewer & Waterworks, of good Moral character, can work w/ min. supervision

CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN
Min. 5-10 yrs experience in horizontal, vertical & pipeworks, of good moral Character, can work w/min supervision

Send comprehensive Bio-data with recent 2x2 Color Picture, copies of Transcript of Records, Barangay, Police & NBI Clearances to:

E.I. CONSTRUCTION & DEVT. CORP.
2652 Rockefeller cor. Copernico
San Isidro, Makati City

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Accounting graduate, female, single, not more than 25 years old, proficient in Microsoft Office, 2 years work experience, knows administrative job/ office procedures, fluent in communications, can work long hours, with pleasing personality.

E-mail bio-data w/ photo:
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Candidates must have at least 5-7 years of management experience coming from a similar industry. Must be a Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer with background in HVAC and with a sound understanding of the science of air-conditioning.

Senior Engineers (Plan and Spec)

Candidate will be supporting the Plan and Spec Manager in delivering quality products, customer service & support for Carrier Air Conditioning equipment & services. He will be measured based on sales achievement focusing on successful completion of projects.

Candidates must have at least 3 years of Sales experience with a demonstrable rate of success and sound understanding of the science of air conditioning, Computer literate, especially in MS Office

Senior Engineers (Applied Sales)

Candidates will be responsible in searching for new clients, establish partnerships and maintain long-term clients. He/she will manage and interpret various customer requirements as well as offering long-term customer support.

Candidates must have at least 3 years of Sales experience, preferably coming from the air-conditioning industry or consumer electronics. He/she must be a mechanical or electrical engineer with understanding on HVAC and the science of air-conditioning.

Field Quality Engineers

Candidate will provide technical support to sales/dealers' concerns and provide supervision and consultation to accredited franchise service centers and installers through regular installation inspections.

Candidate must have at least 3 - 5 years experience in refrigeration/air condition service installation, maintenance, trouble shooting and repair. Preferably a graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering, HVAC, and other allied disciplines.

Service Engineers (Applied Service)

Candidates will be responsible for expanding the company's client-base by doing sales visits, maintenance of service contracts, assisting in maintaining healthy accounts receivables, and monitoring/managing parts and materials for applied service. He/she will also handle service repair, maintenance, retrofit and other services pertaining to applied equipment.

Preferably, candidate should be a graduate of HVAC, technical courses and engineering courses such as Mechanical Engineering and Electrical engineering as well as vocational courses such as Refrigeration and Airconditioning, Electrical Technology, Applied Science, others. Preference will be given to candidates who have worked in HVAC service industry and/or has previous experience in industrial sales.

Accounting Supervisor

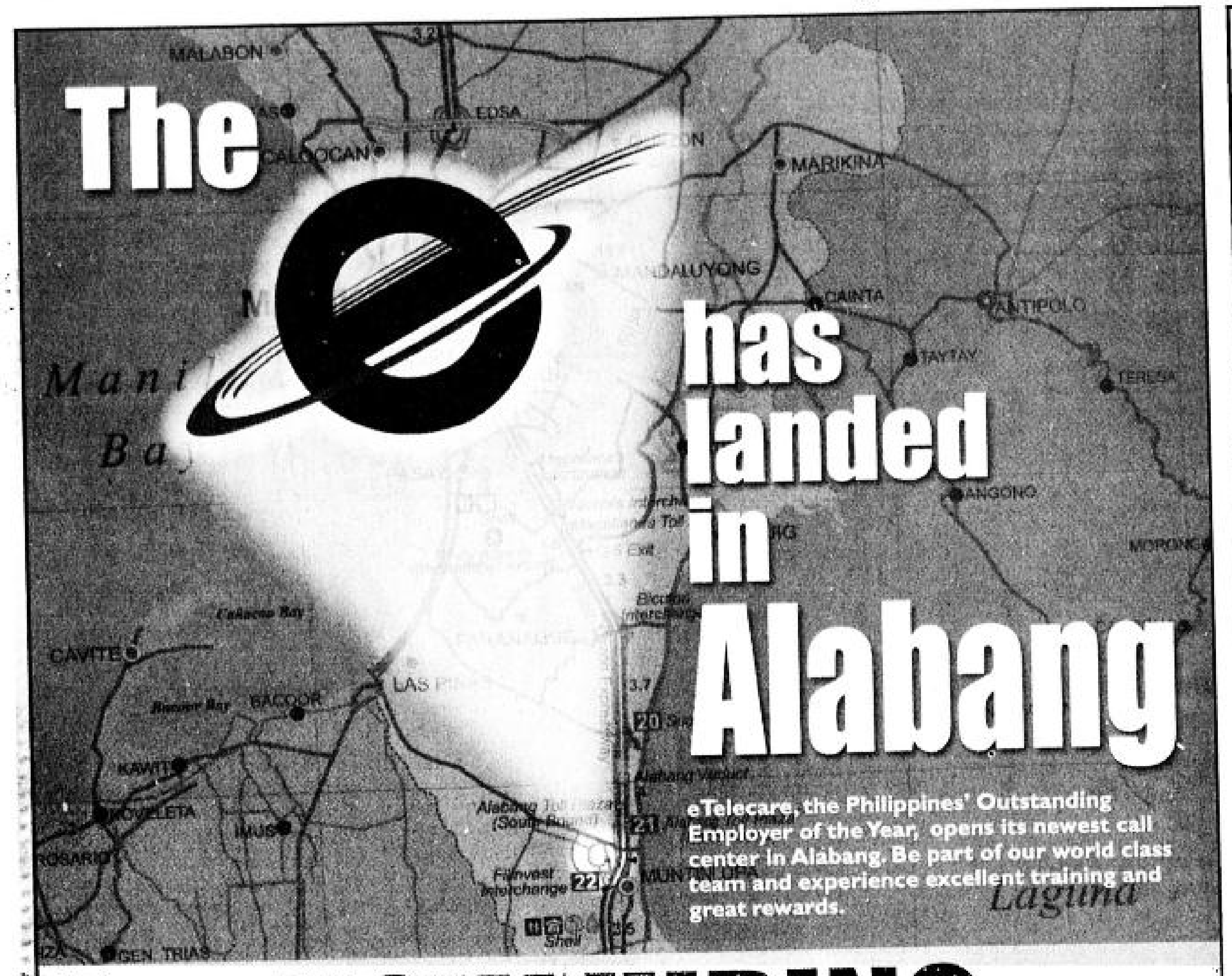
Successful candidate will be responsible in preparation of standard cost both in manufacturing products and service parts list. He/she will also analyze production orders for closing, validation of price updates and month-end closing including adjusting entry preparation.

Candidates must be a C.P.A. with at least 3 years of experience in general/cost accounting preferably coming from the manufacturing industry. Must be analytical and well-organized.

These are urgent requirements. Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with attached 2x2 photo and copy of transcript of records to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Concepcion Carrier Air Conditioning Company
Km. 20 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Or e-mail to:
HRD@carrier.utc.com



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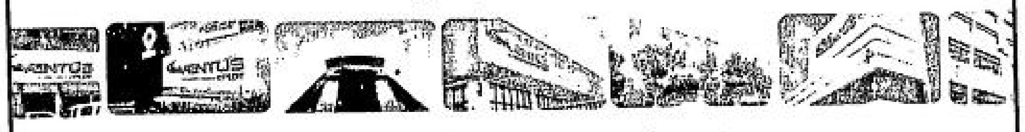

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- Graduates of psychology or any business course
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Good analytical ability
- Proficient in MS office applications
- Female, not more than 24 years of age

RECEPTIONIST

- Graduate of any 2 or 4-year course/degree
- Above average communication skills
- Pleasing personality
- Must exude self-confidence
- Should possess initiative, resourcefulness and genuine desire to help others
- Female, not more than 25 years of age

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- Graduates of any 2 or 3-year computer or business course or undergraduates with at least 2 years in college
- Preferably with experience in performing clerical functions
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, not more than 22 years of age

TRAINING OFFICER

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science, Organization Development or Development Communication
- At least 2 years related work experience in the same capacity
- Knowledgeable in conducting Training Needs Analysis, designing and facilitating competency-based training
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient in MS office applications
- Female, between 24-28 years old

TECHNICIANS

- Graduates of Computer, Electrical or Electronics, Mechanical, Electromechanical, and Instrumentation Technology courses
- New graduates or at least with 6 months experience in machine maintenance and troubleshooting
- Male, ages 18-24

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A leading global banking software company is seeking for a HR Manager / HR Officer.

Reporting to Head of HR, Asia, the manager will take responsibility for all HR advice provided to Manila's HR operations, particularly in the areas of recruitment, training, compensation, talent management and performance management. As a member of the HR team, you will also take an active involvement in overall HR issues and planning processes, as well as ensuring consistency in HR practices between the various business units.

We seek a talented, motivated HR practitioner. Your HR experience will be with high quality 'HR focused' companies and will include some time in the banking or financial services industry. You will be familiar with working in a business HR advisory role that partners with the business. You will have excellent interpersonal skills and a proactive mindset. Our client is known in the industry for offering great career paths for its people and the opportunity is similarly offered in this role.

Requirements:

- *5 years' (HR Officer) / 10 years' (HR Manager)* HR experience with at least 4 (for HR Manager) in managerial roles in large scale global MNCs
- Strong forte in recruitment and business partnership skills
- Strong compensation and benefits background
- Ease in handling complex issues and senior business managers
- In-depth working knowledge of the local Labour laws
- Able to operate with a small team
- Strong English Communication Skills both verbal and written

REGIONAL RESOURCING MANAGER

Reporting to Head of HR, Asia, you will be responsible for rolling out resourcing process and measures to ensure a healthy pipeline of suitable talents to meet the manpower requirements of the company in the region. In order for you to be successful, you must possess the ability to understand the concerns and demands of the business and seek to align your relationship with the business managers to attain that. You are creative but process-oriented in your approach. In addition to your resourcing role, you will assist the Head of HR, Asia in driving several other HR projects and hence you should also possess the ability to multi-task and in-depth knowledge of other HR sub-functions. The requirements are similar as the above but with a stronger emphasis in Resourcing and Projects Delivery.

Interested applicants are invited to send your *resumes with scanned photo in MS Word Format*, stating the position you are applying for as well as your current & expected salaries to talentresource@singnet.com.sg

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HUMAN INTEGRATED RESOURCES EXPERTS, INC.

3/F 8338 Fortuna 2 Bldg. Dr. A. Santos Ave. Parañaque City
Tel. Nos. 8265567 to 68; 8252409; 8290079
Email Address: hireinc@smartwifi.com.ph

We are in need of the following for immediate hiring:

ICS HELPDESK ASSISTANTS – Male/Female; 21-35 years old; Graduate of BSCS, BSCE or any IT related course; With at least 1 year experience in Windows NT/2000 system administration; Knowledgeable in Windows 95/98, NT, 2000, XP operating system and office application softwares, Basics DNS, DHCP, Ads and TCP/IP networking knowledge; With skills on computer hardware/software troubleshooting plus some system programming skills; Willing to be assigned in Laguna

PLANNER – M/F; 21-30 years old; Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering; Proficient in MS Office; With good scholastic record; Willing to be assigned in Laguna

MONEY SORTERS (F)/DATA ENCODERS (M/F) – 18-29 years old; single; Graduate of any 4-year Business/IT course; Computer literate; With good communication skills; Personable

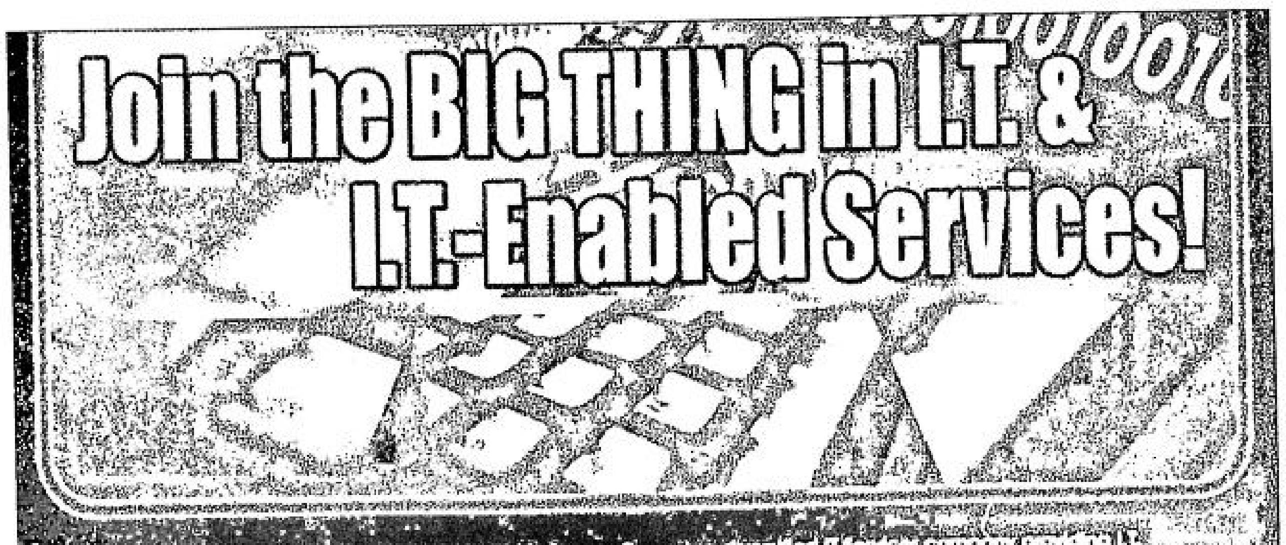
TYPIST I – Male; 21-29 years old; single; Preferably Computer Engineering graduate

SERVICES COORDINATOR – Female; not more than 30 years old; Graduate of any 4-year business course; Background in marketing and customer service preferred; Proficient in MS office; Willing to be assigned in Parañaque.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT – Female; 22-30 years old; Accounting graduate; 1-2 yrs experience in the same field required; Fast learner; With high attention to details

SALES ENGINEER – M/F ; 30-40 yrs old; Graduate of Engineering/Architecture; 2-3 yrs experience in sales; Has extensive rapport in Philippine Construction company; Willing to be assigned in Quezon City

Qualified candidates may apply personally at our office or send their resumé thru email.



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SYSGEN
Your IT Solutions Partner

Established in 1991, Sysgen Group is a diversified IT services company providing I.T. Consulting, I.T. Staffing, I.T. Training, Contact Center services and BPO services to top notch clients.

We are currently in urgent need of high-caliber personnel to fill up the following positions:

PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer engineering or any other computer related courses.
- Should have at least (1) year solid experience in software development using one or more of the following programming languages: Java / J2EE, COBOL / .Net (ASP.net, VB.net, C#) / PowerBuilder / PeopleSoft / ABAP / RPG / Lotus Notes / ASP / C++ or Oracle
- Open for Off-shore and local assignments.

NETWORK/SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer engineering or any other computer related courses.
- Well-versed in one or more commonly used Operating Systems such as UNIX / LINUX / Sun Solaris / LINUX / Windows NT, 2000 or 2003 Server
- Experienced in Hardware and Software maintenance and configuration
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Maintain composure and good judgment in the face of time pressure and/or risk.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Any four-year degree course graduate
- With a minimum of 1 to 2 years experience in Sales
- Experience in networking with decision-makers or influencers
- Experience in managing accounts with annual revenue of 30 million
- Experience in the IT Industry is an advantage
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills.

RECRUITMENT OFFICER

- Bachelor's degree in Psychology (preferred)
- With at least three years experience in recruitment, one year preferably as a supervisor
- Experience in sourcing IT talents an advantage
- Must have experience in handling large volume of recruitment requirements with high conversion rates
- Must be able to develop sound recruitment plans with immediate results
- Familiar with various IT testing materials (an advantage)
- Must be able to review recruit systems and recommend changes as necessary
- Must be able to train a team
- Must have above average oral and written communication skills
- Must be able to interface effectively with schools and organizations
- Can maintain good composure in the face of time pressure and/or risk

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer engineering or any other computer related courses.
- Should have at least 2 years SOLID work experience on Oracle / Sybase / MS SQL Database Administration
- Must have good communication skills (oral and written)

BUSINESS ANALYST

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer engineering, or any other computer related courses.
- Must have at least 2 years experience in business processes/business flows
- Must have good communication skills
- Strong technical writing skills
- Must have good organizational and time management skills

SAP FUNCTIONAL CONSULTANTS

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer engineering or any other computer related courses.
- Should have at least 2 years solid experience in one of more of the following modules: MM, SD, PP, HR, BW, FI CO, AM, QM, SM, PP or PS

QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTERS / SOFTWARE TESTERS

- Bachelor / College degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Computer Engineering or other related courses.
- At least 2 to 3 years testing experience using automated test tool software (e.g. Mercury Interactive & Winrunner, Rational Rose, Load Runner etc.)
- Proficient in creating test plans, cases and scripts.
- Excellent Analytical Skills
- Must have strong spoken and written English communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines

OTHER OPENINGS:

- Project Managers
- IT Lecturers

Interested parties are requested to hand-carry their comprehensive resume to **Sysgen, 82 Legaspi Suites, 178 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati** or e-mail to **hrd@sysgen.com.ph**.

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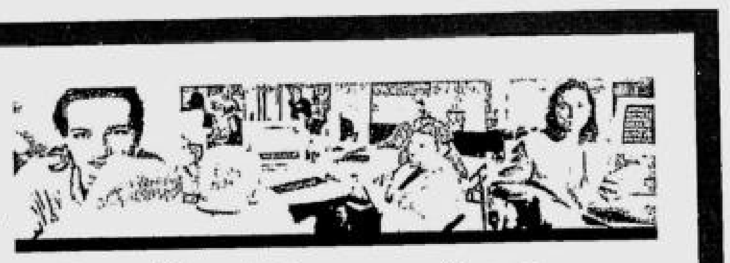

Metro Manila Branches

Selling Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

- male/female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year Business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chains or in sales in the same capacity; ability to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

Counter & Checking Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible in cashiering operations, cash transactions and overall supervision of personnel in the department.

- female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year Business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in bank operations or counter-cashier functions and familiar with credit card transactions

Customer Service Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and directing customer service operations and functions in the assigned branch department.

- female; not over 32 years old; graduate of any 4-year Business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service.

Warehouse Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning, controlling and directing operations/functions of a group

- male; not over 32 years old; graduate of any 4-year Business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; ability to lead, motivate, and foster team work in the department

Office Assistant

(*Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)

- female; not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year Business course; personable, fast learner and flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at:

SM Mart, Inc.
SM Corporate Office, Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard
SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City

www.sm-shoemart.com
Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring comprehensive resume, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History print out, original and photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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DEANS
School of Nursing

- Registered Nurse
- Earned Master's degree in Nursing major in Administration and Supervision
- Minimum 5 years experience in teaching and supervision in nursing education
- Member and of good standing of the ADPCN and APO-accredited professional organizations

College of Arts and Sciences

- PhD from a reputable school
- With noteworthy publications

College of Business Administration

- DBA or MBA, preferably CPA
- With noteworthy publications

College of Engineering

- MS in engineering from a reputable school
- With noteworthy publications

College of Computer Studies

- MS Computer Science/MS Information Technology/MA in Computer Education graduate with computer science related undergraduate degrees.
- With 5 years teaching and 2 years managerial experience.

Faculty Members
for the following subject

- Psychology
- Computer Engineering
- Information Technology
- Information Management
- ECE
- Accountancy
- English
- Marine Transportation
- Social Sciences
- Natural Science and Math
- Language
- Tourism
- Hotel and Restaurant Management

Allied Health Courses

- Nurse Instructors with MAN
- Clinical Instructors
- Caregiver Instructors
- Microbiology Instructor
- Occupation/Physical Therapist
- Pharmacist
- Dietician
- Medical Transcription Trainer
- Call Center Trainer

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS
Librarians

- Bachelor in Library Science graduate
- With PRC license
- Has at least 6 months work experience

Accounting Assistants

The successful candidates will handle either Audit or General Accounting functions under payables with emphasis on processing of disbursements and maintenance of accounting records.

- Accountancy graduate;
- With 6 months working experience in related field;
- Preferably with background in auditing; and
- Computer literate

Management Trainees

Must have at least 3 years sales/marketing and 2 years managerial experience from a highly reputable organization. Computer literate and has good command of the English language.

Multi Media Artists
Network Support Engineer
Sr. Programmer

- With at least 6 months experience;
- BSCS, BS IT, BSCOE, ECE graduate

English Language Officer

- AB English Graduate;
- Preferably with Master's Degree;
- Has call center experience

Account Executive

- Graduate of any business related courses;
- Preferably male; and
- Has sales/marketing experience in the printing industry.

Foundation Director
Major Functions and Accountabilities

- Supports operations and administration of Board by advising and informing Board members, interfacing between Board and staff, and supporting Boards evaluation of Executive Director.
- Oversees design, marketing, promotion, delivery and quality of programs, products and services.
- Recommends yearly budget for Board approval and prudently manages the Foundation's resources within those budget guidelines according to current laws and regulations.
- Effectively manages the human resources of the Foundation according to authorized personnel policies and procedures that fully conform to current laws and regulations.
- Assures the Foundation and its mission, programs, products and services are consistently presented in strong, positive image to relevant stakeholders.
- Oversees fundraising planning and implementation, including identifying resource requirements, researching funding sources, establishing strategies to approach potential donors, submitting proposals and administrating fundraising records and documentation.

Minimum Qualifications

- Any combination of training and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, political science, community development program administration or a closely related field.
- Three years of professional work experience in management level business, public administration, and social work program administration.
- Willingness to travel extensively

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Please e-mail your application letter together with your updated resumé to:
msfabay@amaes.edu.ph
Please indicate the position title applied for as subject of your e-mail.

or through snail mail addressed to:

The Corporate Human Resources
AMA Group of Companies
#59 Panay Avenue, Quezon City.

SM

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Assistant Division Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Financial planning and management
- Assortment planning
- Business planning
- Develop and lead Merchandising Team

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, over 30 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 5 years experience in Retail Business
- Excellent Financial Planning and Management skills
- Possess analytical skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Develop and plan Merchandise Assortments
- Drive Sales and Gross Margin
- Manage Monthly OTB (Open-to-Buy)
- Manage and develop suppliers
- Develop Advertising and Sales Promotion Plans
- Implement and Monitor Visual Merchandising Standards

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 4-5 years Retail Merchandising, Store Operations or Brand Management experience
- Experience in planning, forecasting, and allocation
- Computer literate

Finance Officer Store Consignor

Qualifications:

- Female, not over 25 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy or any Finance related course
- With at least 2 years accounting or related work experience in a managerial capacity
- Experience in areas of Accounting Operations and Financial Analysis in retail company is an advantage
- Good interpersonal, oral and written communication skills
- Excellent leadership skills, motivational and results oriented, highly organized and hardworking

Store Consignor Analyst

Qualifications:

- Female, not over 25 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Industrial Engineering or B.S. Economics
- Highly analytical and excellent problem solving skills
- Able to work independently and under pressure, self-motivated
- Can relate well to all levels of organization
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- With high level of computer literacy

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at:

SM MART, INC.
SM Corporate Office, Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard
SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City
or
Visit our website www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring comprehensive resume, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/SSS Employment History printout, photocopy and original Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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OPERATIONS ASSOCIATES

- Female, BS Industrial Engineering graduate from a reputable school/university
- With at least 1 year experience in an **Operations set-up**
- Results-oriented & with strong leadership and organizational qualities
- Excellent analytical skills with keen foresight & an eye for detail
- Possess maturity, objective judgment; a dedicated team player & a self-starter
- Proficient in using computers particularly with MS Word & Excel
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-28 years old
- Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate from highly reputable schools
- At least 2 years relevant experience in facilitating, checking and interpreting -exams, conducting interviews and processing manpower requirements
- Resourceful, adept in coming up with creative sourcing strategies
- With extensive exposure in the Recruitment and Selection process for all levels in the organization preferably in a headhunting or service company
- Computer literate, results-oriented with good interpersonal skills
- Exposure in Training & Development, an advantage

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Female, 23-29 years old
- Accounting graduate with good scholastic records from a reputable school; CPA passer an advantage but not required
- With 1-2 years related experience in handling **Accounts Receivables**
- With good communication and interpersonal skills.
- With above average administrative and analytical skills
- Attentive to details; meticulous at work
- Easy to pick-up instructions; fast learner
- Computer literate (MS Word/Excel)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF

- **Male**, 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Computer Engineering /Information Technology or any related course
- With 2 years relevant experience, a definite advantage
- Working knowledge of the following **Operating System's (OS): MS DOS, Windows 98, XP, 2000 Pro, 2000 Advanced Server.**
- Advance skills in hardware and software support / maintenance in a **LAN/WAN environment.**
- Working knowledge in **LINUX** & related application, an advantage
- An experience in **installing/implementing POS** in an offsite environment, an advantage.
- Able to work independently & as a team player with strong user focus

Qualified applicants may submit their credentials together with their 2x2 picture to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
6/F Singapore Airlines Bldg. 138 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
email: **hrdrecruit@laser.com.ph**

For Immediate Hiring

GRAPHIC ARTIST
ACCOUNTANT
X-RAY TECHNICIAN

Please e-mail resumé at:
hr@medgraphtec.com

The **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA** is looking for an

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Salary range: P28,000 – P33,000

Qualifications:
Female, under 30, with Masteral Degree from a reputable university; at least 3 years experience as an assistant to a high-level officer, highly proficient in verbal and written English.

Please send curriculum vitae with photo *not later than 19 July 2006:*

Administrative Section
10/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City
Fax number: (02) 811-6148

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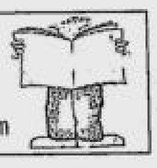
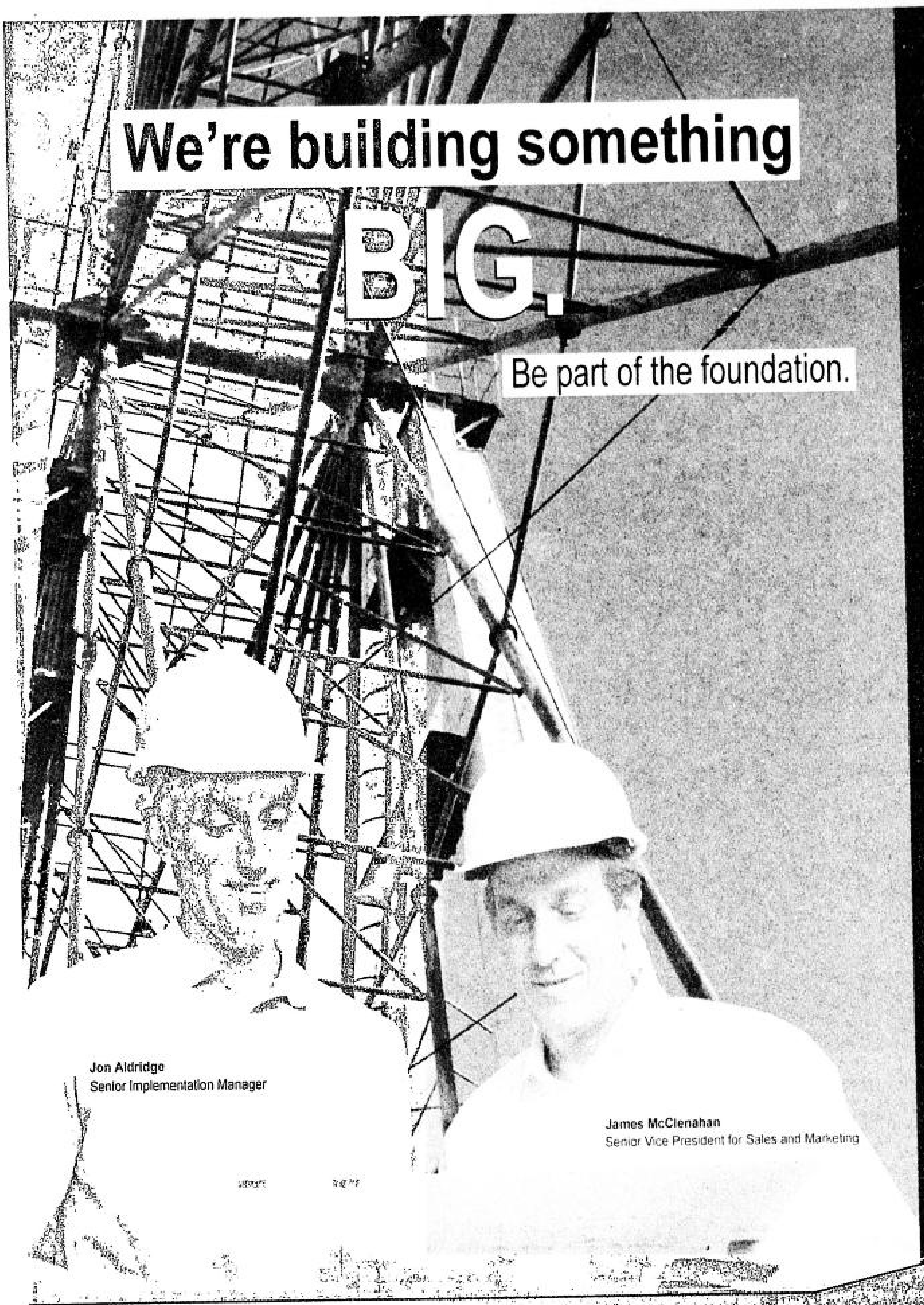


Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com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James McClenahan
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing

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Positions Available

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- ✓ Completed at least sophomore year in college or its equivalent
- ✓ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Proficient in MS Office
- ✓ Good typing skills
- ✓ Customer service experience an advantage

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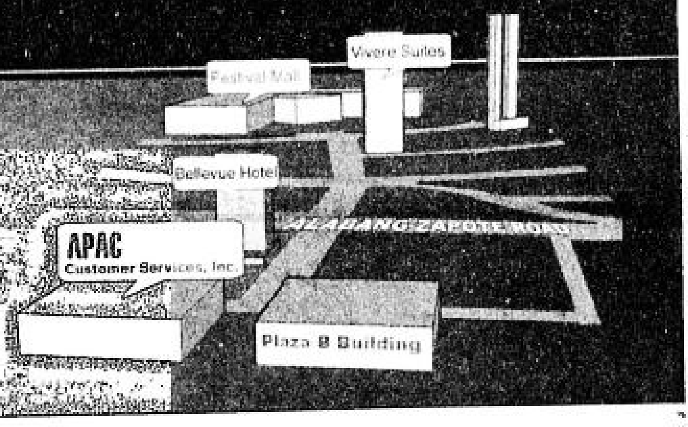

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AUDIT OFFICER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With 3 years auditing experience
- With 1 year supervisory / management experience
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation and Labor Laws
- Can promote and implement appropriate process improvements
- Analytical Skills, Team Player, Leadership Skills

SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have knowledge of Visual Basic or Powerbuilder, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting, Web Programming, MS SQL 2000 or Sybase SQL or other relational database, Management System
- Can work with minimal supervision

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in any Business or Computer course
- Must have solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge of Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding of color management systems
- Knowledge of Windows Operating System and Macintosh environments

DIVISION SECRETARY

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting or Business course
- 1 year experience as secretary
- Must have secretarial and administrative skills
- Proficient in oral & written communication
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Mass Communication or Journalism
- Knowledge of Pagemaker, Photoshop, or any related pagination or editing software
- Proofreading Skills, Encoding Skills, Scanning Skills, Layouting Skills

ELECTRICIAN

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate or a certificate holder of Industrial Electrical Technology
- 1 to 2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- Knows basic electrical principles
- Has basic computer operation skills, interpersonal skills
- Can work under pressure

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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CENTRAL PLANNING & DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

- Preferably graduate of Industrial Engineering; MBA degree is an advantage
- Must have solid experience in Operations & Warehouse Management
- SAP knowledge is an advantage

MATERIALS PLANNING AND SOURCING TEAM LEADER

- BS Industrial Engineering graduate
- Must have background in Materials Requirements Planning
- Preference will be given to applicants with SAP knowledge

MATERIALS SOURCING AGENT

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least 3 years experience in Procurement
- Can speak ***Chinese***

SOURCE ACCREDITATION AGENT

- College graduate; preferably Engineering
- With exposure in procurement, inventory, materials planning and other operation's management principles.
- Preferably with SAP background

QUALITY SYSTEMS ENGINEERS

- Female, 24-26 years old
- Graduate of Engineering course
- Knowledge in ISO/TS and QMS implementation is preferred.

QA WARRANTY TECHNICIANS/
Q.A LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

- Male, 23-30 years old;
- Graduate of BS Chemistry or Chemical Engineering; preferably licensed
- Must have basic knowledge in Quality Systems and laboratory procedures in a manufacturing set-up.

ACCOUNTANT/AUDITORS

- Should be either
  - A CPA, no experience required or
  - A non-CPA, with experience in SAP
- Good in performing reconciliation work and Audit tasks
- With good scholastic records
- Proficient in Microsoft excel

PROCESS ENGINEERS

- Male, 21- 25 years old
- Chemical Engineering or Chemistry graduate
- With very good scholastic records

PRODUCT ENGINEERING STAFF

- 20-30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering course
- Well-verse in AUTOCAD

MECHANICAL/MACHINE DESIGNERS *
DESIGN TRAINEES/DRAFTSMEN *

- Male, 25-30 years old;
- BS Mechanical Engineering Graduate
- MUST be experienced in Mechanical/Machine Design using AutoCAD.
- Knowledgeable in Drafting.

SALES TRAINEES

- Male, 20-30 years old
- College graduate of any Business or Engineering course (preferably with accounting units)
- Exhibits excellent communication & interpersonal skill
- Must be willing to travel from time to time.

SALES ENGINEERS

- Male, 21-35 years old
- Engineering graduate (preferably licensed EE, ECE or Chemical Eng'g.)
- Must possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills
- Knows how to drive

MASTER ELECTRICIANS

- Male, 25-35 years old
- A licensed E.E. or Master Electrician
- Knowledgeable in local building codes and safety laws.

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS

- Male, 22-28 years old
- Graduate of M.E., E.E. or ECE
- MUST know how to use precision measuring equipment.
- Can read and interpret mechanical and electrical diagram.

ASSISTANT MOULDMAKERS

- Male; Technical course graduate
- With 3-5 years experience in Moldmaking or Machine Shop

MACHINISTS

- Male; Technical course graduate
- With at least ***2 years*** experience in Machine Shop Operation

MECHANICAL/MACHINE ASSEMBLERS

- Male; Technical Course Graduate
- With minimum of ***5 years*** experience as Machine Assembler

CNC MILLING OPERATORS

- Male; Graduate of Technical Course
- Must have basic knowledge in ***CNC Machine Operation***

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER/TECHNICIAN

- Male; 23-35 years old
- BS ECE graduate or any equivalent course
- With knowledge and experience in electronic troubleshooting/repair and motor rewinding
- Must be willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN

- Male; 28-35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical or Electro-Mechanical Technology
- With at least ***3 years*** experience in plant maintenance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ENGINEER

- 25-30 years old
- Preferably graduate of Engineering course
- Must be a Registered Safety Engineer

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS ANALYST

- 23-28 years old
- Graduate of any Business Course
- With at least ***3 years*** experience in Compensation & Benefits analysis

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH RESUMÉ AND T.O.R. TO:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION (BATTERY GROUP)
RAMCAR CENTER, 80 ROCES AVENUE, QUEZON CITY.
Or Email: **bcsarmiento@motolite.com;**
ebmuscat@motolite.com
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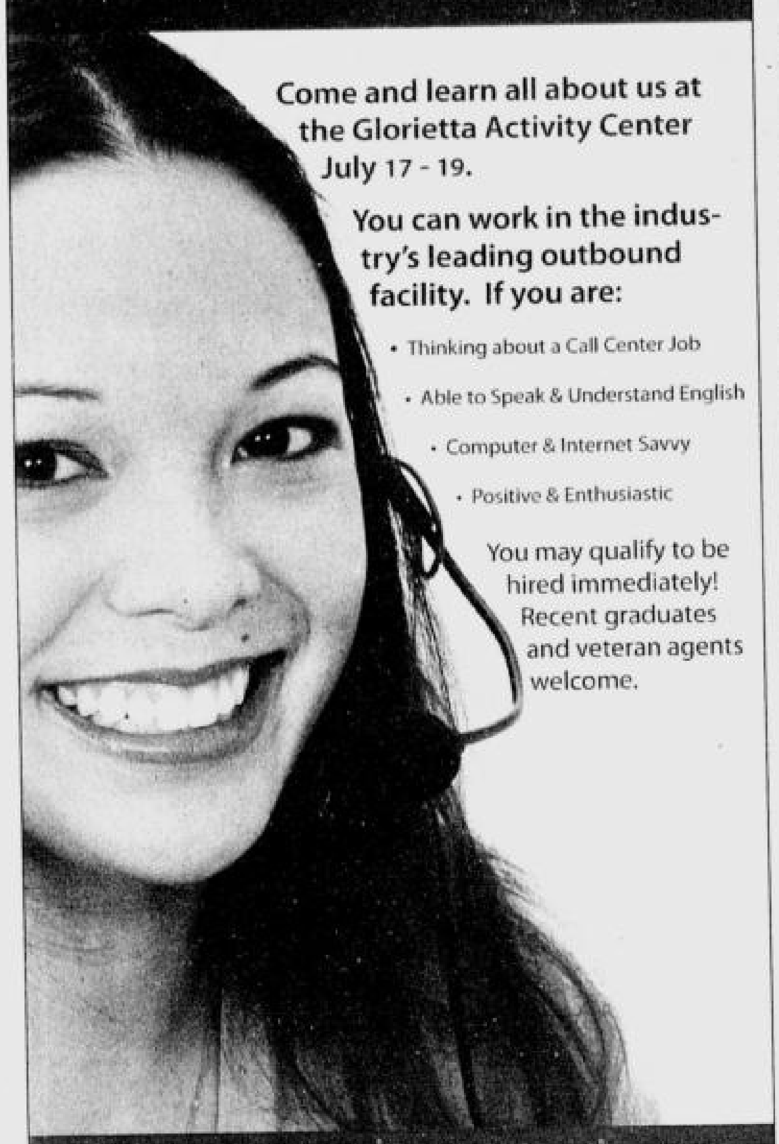

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- A college degree in any business course from a reputable school
- Must have one to three years sales experience in any industry. Preference will be given to those who have experience selling office machines and equipment
- Excellence in verbal and written communication skills
- Assertiveness and quick learning ability
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Must be a resident of any of the identified provinces

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Willing to do field work and personally interact with corporate clients
- Self-oriented and with good communication skills
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old

ACCOUNTANT / AUDITOR

- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA
- With at least one year experience in the same capacity
- Must be analytical and keen to details
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Willing to be assigned in Sucat

GRAPPAS RISTORANTE *(A Subsidiary of U-BIX Corporation)*

RESTAURANT MANAGER / RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or any business course
- With five (5) years work experience for Restaurant Manager & three (3) years for Restaurant Supervisor in a De Luxe Hotel or Fine Dining Restaurant
- Ensures smooth running of the operation, supervises all waiters on mannerism, grooming and attire
- Responsible for maintenance & cleanliness of equipment and tidiness of area
- Acts as hosts to the dining area and handles guest complaints.
- Must possess good human relations, organization and planning skills
- Able to generate reports and perform administrative tasks
- With pleasing personality and proficient in written and spoken English and Filipino
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Male/Female, not more than 32 years old

BRAVO GOLF *(A Subsidiary of U-BIX Corporation)*

SALES ASSISTANT / CASHIER

- Graduate of any business course
- With at least one year experience in the same capacity
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- With pleasing personality and enjoys interacting with customers
- Female, not more than 25 years old

Human Resources Department
U-BIX CORPORATION
1344 Angono St., Makati City • Tel. No.: 897-6819 loc 107 •
E-mail Add: hrd_systems06@yahoo.com • Website: www.ubix.com.ph

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Figaro COFFEE COMPANY®

We are currently putting together a **DREAM TEAM** of young and highly dynamic people for our expansion :

STORE MANAGERS

Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or Business-related course; Male(5'6") or Female (5'3"); 25-30 yrs. old, preferably single; at least 3-5 yrs. of solid managerial experience in the Food and Beverage Industry; able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales and local store marketing strategies; confident in both oral and written English, aggressive, pleasing personality and loves to meet and interact with different people.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management or Business-related course; Male(5'6") or Female (5'3"); 20-24 yrs. old, with sales and customer service skills; able to communicate in English, aggressive, pleasing personality and loves to meet and interact with different people(Fresh graduates with good scholastic standing are welcome).

BARISTA/SERVICE CREW

Preferably college graduate of HRM or related courses; Male('5'6") or Female (5'3"); 20-25 yrs. old; preferably single; able to communicate in English; with sales and customer service skills; pleasing personality.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

Graduate of Food Technology or related course, Female at least 24 yrs. old, with background of GMP and HACCP, with at least 2 yrs. related work experience as Supervisor.

MIS OFFICER

Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering; Male, 25-30 yrs. old, with 1-2 yrs. experience as MIS Officer, proficient in handling proxy server, fax server, email server, web server, Samba and Winfile Server, RAS, Anti-virus application, print server, linux server, database server.

PAYROLL OFFICER

BS Accountancy graduate or any related course, 24-27 yrs. old, with 1-2 years experience in the related field, knowledgeable in MS Office and in Payroll System.

ACCOUNTANTS

BS Accountancy graduate , 22-25 yrs. old, with 1-2 years work experience, knowledge in MS Office and in accounting principles.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Graduate of Secretarial or Office Administration, Female, 22-24 years old, at least 1 yr. experience.

If you think you meet the above qualifications, please hand-carry your resume with 1x1 picture and transcript of records at #5 Pines St. cor Sheridan Mandaluyong City. You can also e-mail your resume to hrd@figarocoffee / talents@figarocoffee.com or log on to our website at www.figarocoffee.com.

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WANTED FOR PRESIDENT

Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of
Science and Technology
Nagtahan, Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. No. 715-1319

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

- Must be at least thirty five (35) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old on the date of the application for the position.
- Must be a Filipino citizen.
- Must be a holder of a Doctoral degree with experience or background in Science and Technology.
- Must have proven track record as top administrator in academic field such as Vice-President, Dean or Campus Director, whether in private or public, for a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, administrative experience and the period covered.
- Must possess leadership in school administration and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the state college/university.
- Must be of good moral character.
- Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification.

Note: Qualified applications are requested to submit the following:

- Formal Application Letter addressed to:

  Honorable Chair of the Board of Trustees
  Attention : The EARIST Secretariat
  Search Committee for Presidency

- Detailed Curriculum Vitaé and authenticated/certified supporting documents.
- Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Plan of the College within a four-year period.
- Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a competent physician as recommended by the Search Committee.
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a NCR medical center.
- Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
  - ☞ Ombusman or Sandiganbayan
  - ☞ Civil Service Commission
  - ☞ National Bureau of Investigation
- Accomplished CSC Form 212 under oath preferably salary grade 29 if applicable.
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of Year 2005.

Important: Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before (date) to any of the following:

Office of Commissioner Nona S. Ricafort
Commission on Higher Education
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue,
Origas Center, Pasig City

Dr. Teresita Quirino
Chair of the Search Committee

Ariston A. Corpuz
Acting Board Secretary
Chief, Administrative Services
EARIST, Nagtahan
Sampaloc, Manila

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The successful candidate will be tasked to provide administrative Support to the Commercial Director and the Marketing Director of General Medicine. She will be responsible for the preparation of communication needs and travel arrangements. She will serve as the over-all organizer of the BU's meetings and conferences. She will act as the central person in handling the BU's business calls. She will also work as the department custodian of all office supplies and fixed assets and will liaise with other units on matters concerning the BU.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any four-year course with at least 2 years experience as an assistant to a top level management position
- Excellent office management system
- Proficient in Windows-based application (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Experience in local and foreign travel arrangements and in organizing events
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Very good in composing business letters, memos, reports, etc.
- Highly results oriented and used to a fast paced & dynamic working environment
- Highly organized, decisive and can work with minimum supervision
- Capable of handling multi-tasks

Interested applicants may send their resumé to:

Novartis Healthcare Philippines, Inc.
2/F Asian Reinsurance Bldg.
Gamboa cor. Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City or e-mail to
novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com

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Accounting Manager: female, not more than 30 years old, Accounting graduate, has substantial experience in general accounting, has experience in retail operations for at least 3 years, possesses leadership skills.

Accounting Staff: female, not more than 28 years old, Accounting graduate, has substantial experience in accounts receivables (credit card transactions) preferably in retail.

Book Specialists: female, not more than 28 years old, preferably with a degree in Literature, English or any related course, loves to read books, fluent in English, both in oral and written, willing to work on shifting schedule, including weekends and holidays, service oriented and should love dealing with people.

Human Resource Manager: female, not more than 30 years old, HR graduate or any related course, has substantial experience in recruitment, compensation, and benefits.

Merchandiser/Encoders: female, not more than 28 years old, preferably with experience working for purchasing department as an encoder or merchandiser.

Purchasing Officer: female, not more than 30 years old, has a background in the purchasing and merchandising of books, preferably a Humanities, Literature, or Library Science graduate, loves to read books.

If you qualify, drop-off resume (with 2x2 photo) at any Power Books branch or you may proceed to No. 25 Brixton, St., Capitol Subdivision, Pasig City (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for a possible interview.

Email: jane_lopez@powerbooks.com.ph

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http:/www.metrobank.com.ph/mbtc_careers.asp

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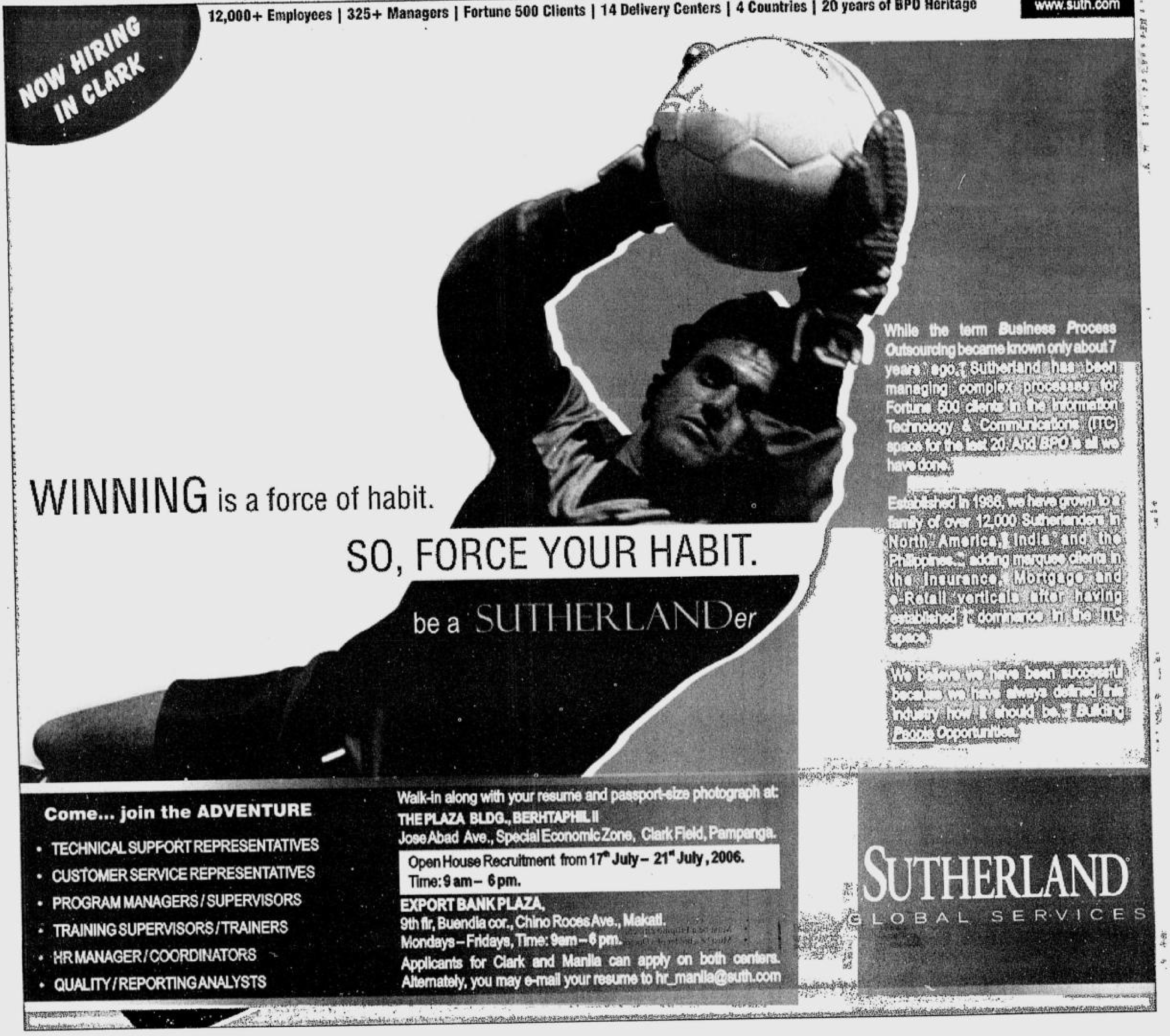

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Walk-in along with your resume and passport-size photograph at:

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Jose Abad Ave., Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga.

Open House Recruitment from 17th July – 21st July, 2006.
Time: 9 am – 6 pm.

EXPORT BANK PLAZA,
9th flr, Buendia cor., Chino Roces Ave., Makati.
Mondays – Fridays, Time: 9am – 6 pm.

Applicants for Clark and Manila can apply on both centers. Alternately, you may e-mail your resume to hr_manila@suth.com

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Male, computer literate, preferably Registered Mechanical or Electrical Engineer must have project management skills w/ minimum 3 years experience in project construction management. Proficient in oral and written English. Salaries commensurate on qualification with fringe benefits.

PROJECT ENGINEER

Male, 35 years old & below, computer literate, BS degree in ELECTRICAL or MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, registered EE or ME is an advantage, with experience in construction operation.

Please apply in person to address indicated below:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
ROMAGO INCORPORATED
#36 Cordillera St., cor Rd I Highway Hills
Mandaluyong City
Tel. # 531-59-63 Fax # 533-26-20

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA

Requires a

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) seeks a candidate with strong operational experience in monitoring and evaluation of social development, community-driven development (CDD), and post-conflict work. Based in Manila, the selected candidate is expected to travel frequently to Mindanao. The position will be an **Extended Term Consultant (ETC) appointment** for one year with a possible renewal for another year based on satisfactory performance and on mutual agreement of the Bank and the Consultant. The position is subject to local recruitment and the successful candidate will work in the World Bank Office in Manila under the technical guidance of the Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF) Secretariat Coordinator and the MTF Manager and will report directly to the MTF Manager.

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist will be responsible for the following tasks and outputs:

- Monitor the implementation of the M&E system for the Mindanao Trust Fund and Bank-related projects in Mindanao.
- Review and improve on the computerized Management Information System (MIS).
- Monitor the implementation of the MIS with timely inputs of data from all parties.
- Together with the Project Management Office (PMO) and monitoring agents, develop and implement impact monitoring on a sample basis regarding intermediate governance and economic/social recovery outcomes.
- Review and improve on the guidelines on the M&E arrangements and MIS for use by counterpart staff in the Trust Fund Recipient/PMO's team and the staff of the Service Providers.
- Guide in the development and implementation of a plan for capacity building on M&E (including operation of the MIS) for counterpart staff in the Trust Fund Recipient's team, Service Providers, and for community members on participatory monitoring.
- Draft summary consolidated monthly status and quarterly reports for the MTF Secretariat and Administrator based on inputs from the MIS and other data.
- Assist in developing terms of reference for diagnostic and case studies as required during implementation of the MTF Program.
- Review, comment and oversee the work of the monitoring agents to be contracted.
- Other related tasks as assigned by the MTF Secretariat Coordinator and the MTF Manager.

Selection criteria:

- Masters degree in a relevant field (e.g. social science, statistics, administration and management, and local governance), as well as minimum of 5 years of practical experience in designing and managing M&E activities
- Strong operational background with at least 5 years relevant professional experience in rural development and community development projects in the Philippines.
- Work experience in management and administration is desirable.
- Effective oral and written communication skills in English and Filipino, and proficient computer skills.
- Good interpersonal skills and demonstrated capacity to work effectively in teams
- Willing to travel frequently to remote rural areas in Mindanao.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **July 28, 2006**. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
P.O. Box 400 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

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COMPANY PROFILES

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Aboitiz Transport System Corporation is the largest shipping company in the country. At present it is engaged in passenger transport and cargo liner services, plying major routes and principal ports across the archipelago.

ATS holds the distinction of being the first shipping company in the Philippines to have received the prestigious International Ship Management (ISM) Code certification and the only company to have a fleet-wide certification. ATS's fleet maintains the highest standards on safety management, environmental protection, emergency preparedness, maintenance of ship requirements, crewing, and development plans for shipboard operations.

ATS brings your potential to the fullest, provides you with opportunities for growth and learning in an atmosphere of openness and fun, led by highly competent and motivated leaders.

ACCENTURE

Working at Accenture is about helping our clients become high-performance businesses. By putting innovation at the heart of everything we do, we can guide clients through emerging opportunities, help them adapt to changing conditions, make ideas happen and deliver effective results to ensure they stay ahead. We can bring together the most advanced resources, tools, people and technologies available, seamlessly integrating our consulting, technology and outsourcing capabilities. Few can match our track record in designing and delivering ground-breaking business and technology solutions. With approximately 100,000 professionals in 48 countries worldwide, Accenture is one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies.

AMA

The AMA Education System is composed of a network of educational institutions that provides the competitive edge of information technology-based education.

The students of AMA enjoy a one-student-one-computer instruction which are linked through a local area network (LAN) and to an array of sophisticated mainframe and midrange computers. It also maintains extensive Hardware and Software libraries, drafting and LAN laboratories. It is the Philippines' first and only member of the American League of Colleges and Universities (ALOCU) wherein AMACC students may pursue their studies abroad at any of the fifty member schools. It is likewise affiliated with the National Computer Center - United Kingdom, the authorized training center of the Lucent Technologies, the American Business Executives, CISCO Systems, Microsoft and is ISO 9001:2000 certified (for AMA Computer University QC, AMA Makati Campus and Makati East Rizal Campus).

AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS

Ambergris Solutions is a leading call centre in the Philippines, providing inbound customer care, inbound sales, technical support and business process outsourcing solutions to the utilities, IT, travel & hospitality and financial services industries.

Our Values: People. Innovation. Professionalism. Customer Satisfaction. Fun.

APAC CUSTOMER SERVICES, INC.

APAC Customer Services, Inc. is a leading provider of customer interaction solution for market leaders in financial services, insurance, telecommunication, healthcare and logistics. APAC partners with its client to deliver customer solutions that enhance bottom line performance.
APAC Customer Services Inc. pioneered the field of outsourced customer relationship marketing. And today, we're one of the largest firms of our kind – the most driven to excel in providing solutions that produce success. We maintain our market leadership by keeping our standards the highest in the industry and by continually searching for new and better way to acquire and service customers.

CLIENTLOGIC

CLIENTLOGIC, having served customers for over 30 years is considered one of the leading international provider of integrated customer management solutions. CLIENTLOGIC has its headquarter in Nashville, Tennessee, and has 54 facilities throughout in 13 countries around the globe.

Still in the phase of expansion, CLIENTLOGIC has found its way to the heart of Southeast Asia to a country also known as the THIRD LARGEST ENGLISH SPEAKING NATION in the world, the PHILIPPINES. Filipinos, the locals, not only speak the language well but also understand the American Culture too, attributed to the American occupation during the 1900's. The Filipino workforce boasts of a literacy rate of 94.6% of the total population. This is among the highest in the world. Definitely a wise investment for CLIENTLOGIC and a good transition and affiliation for the Philippines.

CLIENTLOGIC Philippines is a join venture of two known players in the Teleservices Business, CLIENTLOGIC, and SALMAT, the largest marketing communications company in Australia.

CONVERGYS CORPORATION

Convergys Corporation, the global leader in customer care services and ranked as one of America's Most Admired Companies by Fortune Magazine for five consecutive years, is a multinational organization employing over 65,000 people in 64 customer contact centers and other offices in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. We serve Fortune 500 companies around the world in telecommunications, Internet, cable and broadband services, technology, financial services, and other industries in more than 60 countries. We are the global leader in integrated billing, employee care, and customer care service. Our revenues are in excess of US$2.5 billion.

DEUTSCHE KNOWLEDGE SERVICES

Deutsche Knowledge Services (DKS) is a subsidiary of Deutsche Bank, registered with the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission as a Regional Operating Headquarters (ROHQ) in April 2005.

DKS is Deutsche Bank's primary global shared service centre for Controlling, providing accounting, reporting, and reconciliation and risk control services. With Euro 993 billion in assets and 63,427 employees, Deutsche Bank ranks among the global leaders in corporate banking and securities, transaction banking, asset management, and private wealth management, and has a significant private and business banking franchise in Germany and other selected countries in Continental Europe.

Located in one of Manila's premier locations, DKS ROHQ currently occupies two floors of The Enterprise Center in Makati and is connected to the Bank's global hubs in Frankfurt, London, New York, Singapore, Tokyo, and Sydney. DKS also has an office in Bangalore which primarily supports cash operations and related functions.

EPERFORMAX

ePERFORMAX Contact Centers Philippines offers a unique model for clients interested in pursuing business process offshore solutions for significant cost savings and improved value for every dollar invested in their customer contact center or back office processing services. Our vision is driven by our passion to combine the low cost of labor and high work ethics in the Philippines with the best U.S. services practices to deliver the best overall quality and financial performance.

EPIXTAR CORP.

Epixtar Corp. is the parent company of Epixtar International Contact Center Group, Ltd (EICCG), Epixtar Communications Corp. (ECC) and the NOL Group, Inc. (NOL). ECC is a wholesale telecommunications provider. NOL provides Internet services to small and medium sized businesses.

Epixtar's service commitment informs a unique blend of solutions, people, technology, and world-class campaign management to create value through effective service delivery. That's because Epixtar departs from the mold with a proven, market-driven approach resulting in millions of transactions since our inception.

ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

eTelecare Int'l, Inc. and Phase 2 Solutions Inc. two of the world's leading call center outsourcers, are now doing business as eTelecare Global Solutions. The companies, which merged in May 2004 when the Philippines-based eTelecare acquired US-based Phase 2 Solutions, announced the name as part of a broader strategy of offering clients location-independent solutions. The name draws on the heritage of both companies, which were pioneers in the outsourcing business.

As one company, eTelecare Global Solutions has more than 30 clients and revenues of over $125 million. The company has eleven call centers, four in the Philippines and seven in the US, with a total of more than 8,000 employees.

EPLDT VENTUS

ePLDT Ventus provides offshore, cost-effective outsourcing solutions specializing in inbound customer care. A 100% subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Teleophone Company, the dominant telco solutions provider in the Philippines, ePLDT Ventus is your most viable option for outsourcing customer service solutions in the Philippines.
Since its inception in 2002, Vertus has enjoyed significant growth. From two (2) sites handling an average of 650,000 calls per month, Vertus will grow to seven (7) sites by the 1st QTR of 2006, which will employ over 5,000 employees, handling an average of 3.5 million calls a month.

FIGARO COFFEE COMPANY

Figaro recreates the pleasures of drinking coffee in a traditional Italian or French café. We pursue the higher standards of service, food and coffee quality that reflect the gracious lifestyles of the Old World. Our exclusive coffee blends are expertly roasted everyday at our facility. Our own coffee concoctions are made using the very best coffee machines. And our food recipes are created to complete the European experience garo has a solid following among serious coffee drinkers and has 54 afes in the Philippines to date. Part of Figaro's mission is to give back to e local coffee industry through projects of the Figaro Foundation.

ow on its 12th year, the Figaro Coffee Company has expanded ternationally; opening two cafes in Shanghai and one in Dubai. Figaro will oon open more cafes in China and the rest of Asia.

UJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION

ujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines (FCPP) was blished on February 1, 1995. It became the 65th overseas subsidiary of ujitsu Limited, a leading provider of internet-focused information chnology solutions and one of the world's leading manufacturers of Hard isk Drives.

Considered by PEZA as a pioneering activity, FCPP expanded rapidly in s first 5 years of operation exporting its products to the United States, urope, Japan and Southeast Asian countries. Its contribution to the hilippine economy quickly earned recognition receiving from the hilippine Export Development Council (PEDC) Top Exporter Awards in 998 for registering more than US$100 Million exports and in 2000 for xports of more than US$500 million. FCPP also received Outstanding xporter Awards from PEZA in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

n addition, FCPP was also accorded the Hall of Fame Award by PEZA for btaining Outstanding Employer Award for 3 consecutive years. (1998, 999 and 2000)

EIDELBERG MOTORS CORP.

MC is also known as Chevrolet – Makati, its main office is located at 2296 on Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension) and Chevrolet Alabang, branch, located at LA 104 & 105 Westgate Center Filinvest City, labang, Muntinlupa City. Chevrolet Makati and Chevrolet Alabang is a ne-stop auto shop that offers top of the line vehicles from renowned GM rands such as Chevrolet. Chevrolet Makati and Chevrolet Alabang also ffers automotive related products as well as a complete range of services. ur showroom is open seven days a week. Chevrolet Makati and hevrolet Alabang's staff can offer helpful tips, extensive product formation and other guidelines. This is in line with our standard for ustomer service and satisfaction, and to put more importance on creating Customers For Life."

BM DAKSH

panorama, Philippines is the most favored BPO location next to India. his is because of the country's strategic business location, steady supply f competent workers, competitive telecom infrastructure, and investor-endly government incentives.

BM Daksh is a leader in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services, eralded as "Best Global Outsourcing Vendor" by the Black Book of utsourcing, we continuously excel in customer, investor, and employee atisfaction.

BM Daksh started in Manila in 2004. Our workforce grew to 1,800 the llowing year. This phenomenal growth led to the expansion of our perations out of PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati to EDSA Central avilion and the EDSA Square in Mandaluyong.

BM BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

he leading HR and Finance Business Transformation Outsourcing (BTO) elivery Center in the Asia Pacific Region, is aggressively recruiting undreds of fresh graduates and HR/Finance & Accounting/IT professions who will fuel its expansion campaign for this year.

oin now IBS and jumpstart your careers especially if you want to pursue a ulfilling and rewarding career in Human Resources (HR), Finance and ccounting (F&A), and Information Technology (IT) support services. egardless of the experience or industry you come from, whether you are fresh graduate, a call center agent, or a seasoned professional, IBS has l the reasons to make you SPECIAL and SMILE!"

CT

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NTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

hat started as a PC company is now much more. In its 28 years, tegrated Computer Systems, Inc. (ICS) has grown to a corporate office ith 3 service centers and more than 200 employees. Today, ICS is the ountry's leading solutions provider with a full range of products and ervices for business nationwide.

CS offers its customers technological expertise, and nationwide sales and ervice channels to serve them. As a result, the Philippine's top HP/ ompaq and Dell dealer for four consecutive years' boasts high quality roducts and superior service-absolute requirements for competing in day's rapidly changing market.

NTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP

nterContinental Hotels Group is an international hospitality group, which njoys a worldwide reputation for its exceptional lodging facilities and eticulous and personalized service.

ach year, more than 150 million people find a warm welcome at a hotel or esort, bearing one of InterContinental Hotels Group's lodging brands. The ompany continues to build the world's preferred places to meet, relax and ream. Around the globe, more than 3,300 hotels of IHG offer a variety of ervices, amenities, and lodging experiences catering to virtually every avel occasion and guest need.

urrently, the company consists of a diverse and extensive lodging ortfolio, which includes the brands of InterContinental Hotels and Resorts, rowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express, taybridge Suites, Candlewood Suites and Hotel Indigo.

NK2SUPPORT

nk2Support is a privately held company that was incorporated in eptember 2001 with the Offshore Incorporations Limited at Tortola, British irgin Island and registered as an Ecozone IT Enterprise with the Philippine conomic Zone Authority.

started its operations in May 2002 and currently maintains a 500 seat ontact center in one of the more prestigious IT zones in Manila, hilippines. It occupies the entire top floor of TechnoPlaza One Bldg. in astwood City Libis with other facilities such as two spacious pantries; a yber lounge for network / Xbox / PS2 gaming; quiet lounge; laboratory nd training rooms; fitness and indoor (billiards/table tennis) areas.

nk2Support is the only company in the Philippine call center industry that rovides 100% technical support services through multi-channel voice, mail and tech chat solutions. Its Network Operations Center has been built provide mission-critical support to its client in US, Canada and anywhere the world.

MAGSAYSAY

Since 1948, Magsaysay has evolved into an award-winning global human resource provider, filling the world's demand for skilled personnel. Magsaysay is also a leader in the shipping industry on which it was founded, operating in the key areas of transport & logistics, shipmanagement and ship repair.

Three core principles guide us: to work closely with our customers to address their needs, to invest in training and development of our personnel, and to provide a caring environment for our employees and their families.A consistent awardee for exemplary operations, Magsaysay entered the POEA Hall of Fame in 1990. Recently, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation was named 2005 Best Manning Agent for Asia-Pacific at the prestigious Lloyd's List Maritime Asia Awards.

Our ever-growing Magsaysay world has Philippine offices in Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro. Our international branches are in Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Croatia, Vancouver, and New York.

MARIE-FRANCE BODYLINE INTERNATIONAL

Marie-France Bodyline International, Inc. introduces a fast and effective way of achieving a slimmer, beautiful figure and a new, healthy life style. MFBI pioneered the systematic program using internationally based technology combined with sensible nutritional guides for slimming. Operations in the Philippines began in 1985 and has expanded since then with branches in Alabang, Binondo, Quezon City, Makati, Ortigas, Shaw, Cebu City and Pampanga.

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY

- The Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) was established by a young group of businessman on September 5, 1962 at the Wellington Building in Binondo, Manila.
In September 1982, the number of Metrobank branches, offices and subsidiaries surpassed the 200 mark. A year later, Metrobank topped all the private domestic banks ion total resources with P8.8 billion.

The bank continued to experience steady growth through the years and in September of 1989, it increased its authorized capital stock from P2 billion to P5 billion. The bank total capital stock on March 31, 2006 stood at P32. 67 billion. Its consolidated resources amounted to P574.36 billion as of the same period.

The Metrobank Group has a combined network of over 800 local and international branches/offices, remittance offices and subsidiaries worldwide. It has 557 domestic branches and 32 offices in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Pusan, Guam, Taipei, Kaohsiung, Madrid, Barcelona, Vienna, Rome, Bologna, Milan, Singapore, Chicago, Hawaii, and Shanghai.

NAVITAIRE

We are Navataire, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Accenture, a growing and consistently profitable company with over 14 years of airline industry experience. Our customer range from start-up airlines to six of the world's 10 largest carriers. With headquarters in Minneapolis, we also operate in Salt Lake City, Austin, Sydney, Auckland, London, and Manila.

We are the leading provider of IT and business solutions to the airline industry worldwide. Combining broad industry expertise, in-depth products & leading technology services, Navitaire's global team provides unparalleled solution to our clients.

Navitaire employs around 700 people worldwide. The company has enjoyed double-digit growth over the last several years, introducing new products and services that include a wide variety of mission critical airline system covering the entire breadth of the airline revenue life-cycle.

PEOPLESUPPORT

PeopleSupport, co-founded by Lance Rosenzweig in 1998, was built on his vision for the next generation of customer care. With the advent of the Internet, Lance saw the opportunity that companies now had to interact with their customers through many more communication channels – voice, email, web collaboration/live text chat, and self-service. However, there was a need to support this interaction and manage all the contact information.
Lance created PeopleSupport around the need to address this void in multi-channel customer care.

PeopleSupport emerged as the innovator and leader in outsourced online customer-care – email, web collaboration and live text chat. We then integrated voice and self-service with the addition of our state-of-the-art global call centers to provide a full customer care solution.

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

THE AXA VISION is to be recognized as the Leader in Financial Protection and Wealth Management.
We are working together to achieve a common goal: to be synonymous with expertise and proximity.

- Financial Protection means responding to the evolving needs of our customers throughout the various stages of their lives. We build lasting relationships with our customers by helping them to prepare for the future and pursue their ambitions in total security. We are committed to satisfy their needs by offering expert advice in the areas of life insurance, personal protection, savings and investment.

Philippine AXA Life is one with the AXA Group's 5 shared values that embody the Group's Vision, and guide employee actions and attitudes – professionalism, innovation, pragmatism, team spirit and integrity - and remain steadfast in our Commitments.

Through its stakeholder commitments, Philippine AXA Life surges ahead to achieve the goal of setting the pace in product innovation, customer service and being the employer of choice.

PJ LHUILLIER

The P.J. Lhuillier Group of Companies is a dynamic organization managing and operating businesses in diverse industries categorized into financial and insurance services; retail and trade; property and resort management; dining; communications and information technology. The core business of the group is its pawnshop services. Starting out as a family business operating several pawnshop branches in Metro Manila, the Group has since then expanded its network of branches and has diversified its portfolio of business ventures. It currently employs over 2000 people all over the country and is a member of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the National Pawnbrokers Association and the Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines Incorporated.

PLDT

PLDT is the leading telecommunications provider in the Philippines. Through its three principal business groups – fixed line, wireless, and information and communication technology – PLDT offers the largest and most diversified range of telecommunications services across the Philippines' most extensive fiver optic backbone and fixed line, cellular and satellite networks.

SM SUPERMALLS

The SM Department Store chain is the acknowledged trendsetter and innovator in the Philippine retail scene. Its exciting merchandise mix, world class interiors, one-stop shopping concept, service, and value-plus pricing has made it part of the lives of many Filipinos. The first SM Department store opened in downtown Manila in 1972. Today, it has 24 branches strategically located around Metro Manila and key provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The SM Department store chain is part of SM, a dynamic group of companies founded by Henry Sy, Sr. as a shoe store in 1958.

SEARCHERS & STAFFERS CORP.

Searchers & Staffers Corp. was organized in August 1990 by a group of SEARCH practitioners who specialize in executive placement. In November 1995, SL TEMPS was created as a division of SEARCHERS & STAFFERS to cater to the needs of clients for Project Hiring, Manpower Service Contracting, HR and Payroll Outsourcing, Promo and Merchandizing and hiring for short-term on-call assignments. Since then, SEARCHERS & STAFFERS/SL TEMPS has built a successful and progressive track record. Our clientele includes banking and financial services, information technology (hardware, software, consulting, internet), telecommunications (vendors and carriers), production/entertainment, call centers, educational institutions, courier and logistics, apparel, appliance and cosmetic retailing and other service-oriented companies/organizations.

RMH TELESERVICES ASIA PACIFIC, INC.

Founded in 1983, RMH has steadily grown to become the highest quality, most innovative and committed provider of outsource customer relationship management services. On April 2, 2004, RMH was acquired by NCO Group, Inc. a leading provider of accounts receivable management and collection services.

With its leadership, RMH continues its commitment to quality, technological superiority, value- added services, and unequalled strategic initiative, has made us the leader in the customer contact industry. Traditional and customized call center services, Multi-channel access such as e-mail, Web chat, Web callback, voice-over net, voice over IP, Web collaboration; integrated knowledge management and contact management tools; Personalization of every customer interaction; More powerful; off-the-shelf telephony integration; Genuine customer knowledge through superior business analytics and market intelligence; Front line employees who can deliver quality results.

SPI

SPi is a leading global BPO provider. On July 10, 2006, ePLDT, Inc.—a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT—acquired 100% of SPi. Combined with ePLDT's Ventus Group, we are one of the world's largest full service BPO companies with a wide range of voice and non-voice BPO solutions, the broadest global delivery network with locations spanning North America, Europe, and Asia, with 11,000 dedicated employees – 4,500 in voice and 6,500 in non-voice, and 26 years of quality and customer service.

SYKES ENTERPRISES, INC.

Sykes Enterprises, Inc. was founded in 1977, in North Carolina by John Sykes. SYKES is headquartered in Tampa, Florida and operates 42 customer contact center, five e-commerce fulfillment centers, and 16 branch offices on five continents. With global capabilities in over 31 languages, approximately 19,000 employees, SYKES continue to diversify and expand our global customer base.
SYKES is the global leader in providing customer contact management solution and services in the business processing outsourcing (BPO) arena. SYKES provides an array of sophisticated contact management solution of Fortune 1000 companies around the world primarily in the communications, financial services, healthcare, technology, and transportation and leisure industries.

U-BIX CORPORATION

U-Bix Corporation has been in business for the past 32 years. The business evolved into an integrated office systems and services provider with its acquisition of numerous distributor agreements with leading companies in the industry such as Riso, Epson, Okamura, Brother, and Casio of Japan. The company's objective is to be a "one-stop shop" for anyone in need of office systems and services. From the customer's perspective, they have the convenience of being able to rely on one company with a proven 32 years track record of high quality, excellent service and extensive nationwide branch network to cater to all their office requirements. From the company's perspective, its strength is being able to know what its customers need and deliver these products and services to their full and complete satisfaction.

VISION-X INC.

VXI began operating as a provider of outsourced contact services in the ethnic, in-language market segment. While we continue to be unique in our service of all ethnic market segments, our mainstream English speaking service dominates our total project portfolio today. At VXI, we continually work to grow the scale and scope of our business. Since our founding, we have fielded millions of customer interactions in many languages of projects for both large multi-nationals and small local clients.

Named as fastest growing outsourcer in the US (Rising Star rankings) with over 2000 seats and 5 centers around the globe, VXI operates world class centers in the US, Philippines and China. Our integrated Inbound and Outbound contact centers support Customer Service, Sales and E-mail solutions for our blue ship clients.

Our commitment and responsiveness to our clients and their customers set VXI apart. VXI's world class contacts centers are staffed with quality people using superior processes, supported by leading-edge technology, and are developed to competitive pricing.

WEST CONTACT SERVICES

West is the nation's premier provider of outsourced communication solutions, specializing in customer acquisition, customer care, and interactive voice response services, as well as conferencing and collection services. We help our clients communicate more effectively, maximize the value of their customer relationships and drive greater revenue from each transaction. Customer Acquisition - Rely on West's Direct Response Solutions to make a positive first impression for your products and to convert prospects into customers. Customer Care - West provides integrated customer care solutions that help you retain and grow profitable customer relationships. Interactive Voice Response - West's IVR solutions will increase your call processing capabilities while providing you with significant cost savings. Home Agent Solutions - West's revolutionary solution offers increased flexibility, a highly educated labor pool, and a superior level of care.

ZENITH INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC.

Zenith International Philippines, Inc. is a well-established company that represents only high quality electrical, industrial and lighting products.

We are growing in dynamic new ways and we recognize that the right people, offering their ideas and expertise, will enable us to continue our success.

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PSYCHOMETRICIANS

Desired candidates must possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Psychology/ Behavioral Science
- Experience in the administration, scoring & evaluation of personality profile
- Experience in conducting preliminary & in-depth interviews

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé and other relevant documents to:

The Head
Human Resource Management
P.O. Box 1996
Makati Central Post Office 12200

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Forcedesk Manager • Forcedesk Supervisor• Operations Manager • Team Manager
Team Supervisors (Manila & Cebu)

QUALITY ASSURANCE
Quality Assurance Director • Quality Assurance Manager
Process and Reporting Analyst

SALES
Sales Associate • Client Services Manager

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Network Engineer (CISCO)• Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Telecommunication Administrator (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES
Employee Relations Officer • HR Reporting Analyst
Compensation and Benefits Associate • HR Assistant

FINANCE
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Payroll Assistant • Manager (Financial Reporting)

LEGAL
Senior Attorney

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Are you ready for the big SWITCH?

Be part of a prestigious and dynamic **Health & Beauty team** where your expertise will be highly valued. We are on a hunt for individuals who are motivated, self-driven and results-oriented.

SALES CONSULTANTS
- Female, 24-35 years old
- Professional appearance and with pleasing personality
- College graduate from a reputable university
- Preferably with good sales background from a service-oriented company
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Open for **Alabang, Metro Manila, QC, Pampanga** and **Cebu** assignments

RECEPTIONISTS / ASSISTANT RECEPTIONISTS
- Female, 21-28 years old
- College graduate from a reputable university
- With good communication skills; smart and personable
- Previous telemarketing experience, a plus factor
- Enthusiastic with good people skills or PR
- Open for **Alabang, Makati & QC area**

PART-TIME DERMATOLOGISTS
- Female, 27-35 years old
- Licensed/Qualified Dermatologist
- Good built, with good skin condition and pleasing personality
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in any of the ff: **Alabang, Makati** and **Cebu area**
- Work schedule can be arranged

NURSES / THERAPISTS
- Female, 20-28 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing/BS Physical Therapy/ BS Occupational Therapy
- Equipped with good communication skills
- With or without experience
- Open for **Metro Manila, QC area** and **Cebu** assignments

Qualified applicants may submit their credentials together with their 2x2 picture to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
6/F Singapore Airlines Bldg. 138 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
email: hrdrecruit@laser.com.ph

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER
(PART/FULL-TIME)
- Can teach any of all of the ff.
  - TOEFL, TWE, TSE, IELTS Review
  - Reading Comprehension & Vocabulary Development
  - Speech Communication, Advanced Conversational English
  - Creative, Journalistic writing
  - English Grammar, Business English
- Preferably with formal teaching experience

LECTURERS FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM REVIEW
- Will lecture on Math or Science or Language, Reading or General Information
- Have good rapport with young people
- Honor graduates or teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle; or Bar or Board topnothcers; or law or medicine graduates and students with outstanding scholastic records

ACADEMIC TUTORS
(PART/FULL-TIME)
- Graduate or students or teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle
- Excel in and can teach English or Math or Science
- Have good rapport with young people

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER
- Fluent in oral Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin or other foreign languages
- Communicates well in English
- Highly personable

MANAGER
- With at least 2 years managerial experience
- With strong marketing background
- Excellent communication skills
- Highly personable
- Very good scholastic records

ACCOUNTANT/ACCOUNTING STAFF
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

SALES CONSULTANT
SECRETARY

Applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé with passport size pictures to:

AHEAD TUTORIAL & REVIEW CENTERS
MAIN: 2/F FBR Building, 317 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
GREENHILLS: 2/F Providence Building, 55 Annapolis Street
ROBINSONS GALLERIA: Park Avenue (near Equitable Bank), Ortigas Center
MEGAMALL: 5/F Building B, (in front of Megatrade Hall 1)
DAGUPAN: De Venecia Road, Lucao District

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTING STAFF

A fast growing company engaged in freight & trucking services is in need of two (2) acctg. staff to assist in the var. jobs of its Acctg. Dept.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female, at least 22-25 years old
- Accounting graduate (Not necessarily a CPA)
- Computer literate
- With at least 1 year work experience as accounting staff
- Capable of working with minimum supervision

Apply in person and bring transcript of records, other credentials and clearances from NBI, Barangay and Police.

NLG-TRANSMAN BROK. & FRT. SVCS., INC.
Rm. 212 Auro-Vir Plaza, 1695 Evangelista
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Look for Ms. Arlene S. Cruz

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- Front Supervisors (M/F)
- Executives--Housekeeping (M)
- Guest Relation Officers
- Maids–Housekeeping (M)
- Housekeeping Cleaners (M & F)
- Admin. Assistants (F)
- Exec. Secretaries (F)
- Night Auditors (Acct. Staff-Male)
- Maintenance Technicians (M)
- Swimming Pool Attendants (M)
- Waitresses
- Chief Engineers
- Cashiers/Receptionists (F)

GRADUATE OF HOTEL & REST. MANAGEMENT(HRM) PREFERRED
& MUST HAVE HOTEL EXPERIENCE

SCREENING OF APPLICANTS AND PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS ARE ON-GOING AT OFFICE HOURS.
EMPLOYER WILL CONDUCT INTERVIEW SOON!

REQUIREMENTS: 2 SETS OF RESUME, PASSPORT, SCHOOL CREDENTIALS, CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING CERT., 2 PCS. 2X2 & WHOLE BODY PICTURES-WHITE BACKGROUND:

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MANPOWER NETWORK & CONSULTANCY, INC.
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Rm 208 Federation Center Bldg., Muelle de Binondo cor. Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED.
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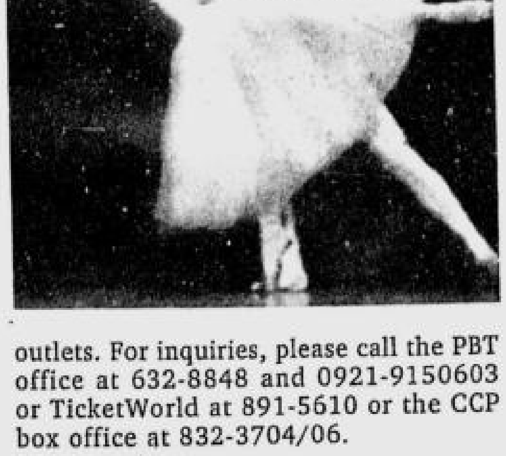
Philippine Ballet 20th anniversary



IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY, the Philippine Ballet Theatre, the country's foremost classical ballet company, opened this season with the staging of a well-loved romantic ballet, Giselle. Performances will be from July 13 to 16 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and July 27 to 30 at Meralco Theatre.

Giselle is the story of an ill-fated love between a peasant girl and Albrecht, a nobleman pretending to be a commoner and who is engaged to a duke's daughter. Hurt by the count's duplicity, Giselle loses her mind role of Giselle while Jared Jehowil Tan and Iouri Vyskobenko, a guest artist from Russia will play the role of Albrecht.

This well-loved ballet will be restaged by PBT's Russian ballet master, Anatoly Panasyukov under the artistic direction of Gener Caringal.

Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets. For inquiries, please call the PBT office at 632-8848 and 0921-9150603 or TicketWorld at 891-5610 or the CCP box office at 832-3704/06.

People, Events & Products

T'nalak Fest 2006 to top all festivals

AFTER SIX FESTIVALS since 1999, this year's 7th T'nalak Festival in South Cotabato, which is now ongoing, will top them all with new features, festival publicist Ayo Gunting said.

And as before, the theme for this year's festival is "Transcending Challenges, Optimizing Progress". South Cotabato, home to more than 650,000 people, has laid the red carpet for its many visitors.

Organized by the office of Governor Daisy Fuentes under Danyy Supe's overall supervision, the festival is named after South Cotabato's must prestigious cultural emblem, the T'nalak or intricately handwoven cloth made from natural abaca fibers.

The inclusive dates for the festival are July 13 to 18, which coincide with the 40th foundation anniversary of the province of South Cotabato.

The festival was preceded by two pre-festival activities, namely, the launching of a Techno Fair July 1 and an Agri-Trade Fair July 12.

On July 13, the festival literally opened with a bang with the Dayana Civic Parade highlighted by a float and cheer dance competition.

A Philippine Board Member's League Dinner, Beerfest, a concert by Sarah Geronimo and Mark Bautista, and a Beerfest-Battle of the Bands also took place in different parts of the city. The Beerfest-Battle of the Bands will be held daily until July 18.

On July 15 were the Pinayasadyahan Motocross and Flat Track Competition, and Dance Sports.

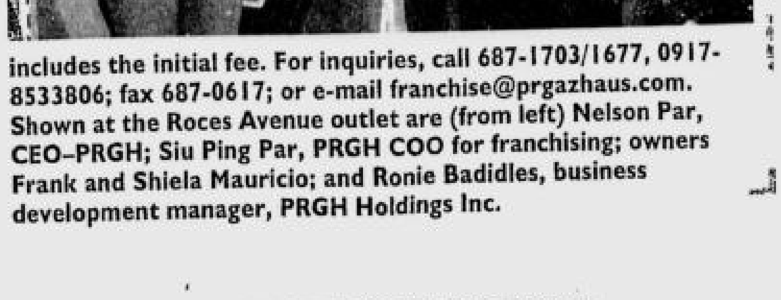
Today will see the BIMP-Eaga Motocross and Flat Track Competition and the Mutya Ng South Cotabato pageant.

On July 17 will be the BIMP-Eaga National Modern Dance Competition.

Finally, on July 18, the festival will be capped by Dayana-Chanting at dawn; a 21-km marathon; a T'nalak Parade or Madal Bel'an which is a new feature of the festival; a Kasadyahan Sa Kapatagan Anniversary Program; a Balikbayan Night which is another new feature; a Disco sa Kalye and Lights and Sound Showdown with fireworks display..

The expected guests at T'nalak 2006 include Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Gunting and Senator Manuel Villar.

PR GAZ HAUS OPENS NEWEST FRANCHISE OUTLET



PR Gaz Haus, the country's first LPG Convenience Store, opened recently its newest franchise outlet in Roces Avenue, Quezon City. A one-stop shop for essential LPG products and services and a branded refiller of Caltex, the company boasts of being the leading provider of LPG products and services with four refilling plants in Navotas, Cavite, Zambales and Pangasinan and with 68 retail shops all over Luzon. As an independent LPG distributor, it intends to utilize the success of franchising as a strategy to grow and expand its business nationwide. PR Gaz Haus offers two ways of acquiring a franchise. First is through the start-up business and the areas open for this type are: Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales and Pangasinan. The second is through acquisition of existing company-owned outlets. The total investment for a 25 to 40-sqm store franchise is estimated at between P900,000 to P1 million and this includes the initial fee. For inquiries, call 687-1703/1677, 0917-8533806; fax 687-0617; or e-mail franchise@prgazhaus.com. Shown at the Roces Avenue outlet are (from left) Nelson Par, CEO–PRGH; Siu Ping Par, PRGH COO for franchising; owners Frank and Shiela Mauricio; and Ronie Badidles, business development manager, PRGH Holdings Inc.

A Well-Established, Leading Supplier of High Quality Electrical, Industrial & Lighting Products Is Looking for Dynamic, Career-Oriented Individuals for Immediate Hiring

PRODUCT MANAGERS

Selected candidates will be responsible for formulating and implementing sales & product promotion strategies and programs to expand market and develop new customers as well as managing and motivating sales team to meet its group sales target.

Male/Female, not more than 35 years old with pleasing personality. Background in engineering, architecture, marketing, communications, business management. At least 2 years relevant experience in handling industrial, commercial, projects and institutional accounts and preferably with knowledge in electrical and lighting products.

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS FOR INDUSTRIAL CONTROL & AUTOMATION PRODUCTS: Male/Female, Engineering Graduate, at least 2 years experience in sales and marketing of PLC, Control Units, Relays, Timers, Sensors, Operator Interfaces, Explosion Proof Control Equipment; Experience in PLC programming and AutoCAD designing; excellent communication and presentation skills.

We offer excellent Compensation package and benefits for highly qualified candidates.

SALES EXECUTIVES/ENGINEERS

Selected candidates will be responsible for the sales, promotion and business development of any of the following products: Industrial Control and Automation, Industrial/Architectural Lighting, Wires and Cables, Signaling and Wiring Devices, Earthing and Lightning Protection. Responsibilities include achieving business objectives and meeting sales target.

Male/Female, 25-35 yrs old with pleasing personality & excellent communication skills. At least 2 yrs. field sales experience in handling industrial, commercial, projects and institutional accounts. Ability to speak in Chinese an advantage but not required. **Above Industry Salary plus Incentives and bonuses for selected candidates.**

AUDITORS/ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS

AUDITORS: will be responsible in conducting spot audit; reconciliation and control of inventories, review of accounting records; establish control measures and set audit guidelines and procedures; prepare Financial Audited and Unaudited Statements and monthly management report identifying variances.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS: will supervise either Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable Section and be responsible for organizing and implementing systems and procedures, policies and internal controls, preparing various reports and financial statements.

Male/Female, not more than 35 yrs. old, preferably CPA or attended CPA review, at least 2 years work experience as Senior Accountant or Supervisor or in the same capacity. Must be computer literate and exposed to computerized accounting system. Ability to communicate in Chinese an advantage but not required.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT for VP FINANCE

Selected candidate will work with the VP-Finance in setting up and maintaining a system that ensures controls and implementation of policies in all financial activities related to sales, purchasing, cash transactions, disbursement, payments.

Female, 25-35 yrs. old. Business/Finance/Accountancy Graduate with at least 2 yrs. relevant work experience. Must be good in Math, proficient in MS Office and can communicate proficiently in English and Chinese.

DELPHI PROGRAMMERS

The programmers will be tasked to handle database maintenance and upgrades as well as developing new programs to enhance and improve overall operations of the company.

Male/Female, at least 3 yrs experience in application programming and system analysis. Must be proficient in Delphi 5 (or higher), Interbase and/or MSSQL.

ADMIN-COMMUNICATION EXECUTIVE

The selected candidate will be responsible for the reception of office visitors; receive all incoming calls and inquiries; provide admin support and services including monitoring and coordinating of company projects, servicing and maintenance of office equipment and facilities. As the receptionist, the Admin Executive should be professional in entertaining visitors and communicating with callers.

Male/Female, Degree in Marketing, Communications or Journalism. At least 2 years related experience; Must have good oral and written English skills, knowledge of Fukien or Mandarin an advantage but not required; excellent interpersonal and communications skills; knowledgeable in MS Office programs.

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

Candidates should have at least 2 years experience in professional design. Must be capable of handling a wide variety of projects and seeing them through from concept to print, from design to construction of showroom and store displays- within deadlines.

Male/Female, 24-32 years old, Graduate of Architecture, Fine Arts, Advertising. Strong knowledge in InDesign, Adobe PhotoShop, Corel Draw, Macromedia Dreamweaver.

Interested applicants are invited to apply personally with comprehensive resumé, TOR, employment certificates and colored photo (2 x 2) or e-mail application to **hrd@zenithinternational.ph**

**Le Mar Ben Classic Condominium
676 Florentino Torres Street corner Soler, Sta. Cruz, Manila
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Look for Mr. Angelo P. Villanueva / Ms. Ruby Balmes**

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One of the world's major manufacturers and suppliers of industrial cocoa ingredients and a manufacturer & distributor of chocolate confectionery products. Listed on the Main Board of Singapore Exchange (SGX). In line with our business expansion we are inviting qualified candidates to join our subsidiaries, **DELFI Foods, Inc.** and **DELFI Marketing, Inc.** in the Philippines.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Male / Female
- Experience not necessary
- College Graduate
- Good in oral and written communication
- A team player
- Computer Literate
- With driver's license
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

MARKETING SPECIALISTS

- Male/Female
- College Graduate with a degree in Management, Marketing or related field from a reputable University
- With Good oral and written English and Filipino Communication Skills.
- Proficient in Windows Office Programs (MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint).
- Good sales experience is an advantage.
- Should have an amiable and pleasing personality and possesses excellent people relation skills.

COSTING MANAGER / ASST. MANAGER

- Must be an Accounting Graduate, preferably CPA
- Should be meticulous, analytical and possess excellent communication skills
- At least 5 years of relevant hands-on working experience in Finance Administration with minimum 3 years stint in Supervisory or Managerial Level
- Good Knowledge of MS Excel
- Exposure in ORACLE System is an advantage

MACHINE OPERATORS

- Male, Technology or Vocational Graduate
- With knowledge in Operation and Basic Maintenance of Machines

Interested applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records to:

**GM-HR DEPARTMENT
DELFI Foods, Inc.
23 M. Tuazon Street, Parang Marikina City
Tel no: 941-3592
E-mail: marieantonette.floresco@delfifoods.com**

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

* ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

M/F, Accounting Graduate, not more than 35 yrs. old, with at least 2 yrs. working experience.

* NIGHT SHIFT PERSONNEL

Male, at least College level, not more than 35 yrs. old, with professional driver's license.

* PERSONAL DRIVER

Male, at least College level, not more than 35 yrs. old, with professional driver's license.

We prefer applicants residing near Alabang.

For interested applicants, kindly submit your updated resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture and other credentials at

**GF3 Park Trade Centre Bldg., Revenue St.,
Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.**

Do you love the life you live? Live the life you love?

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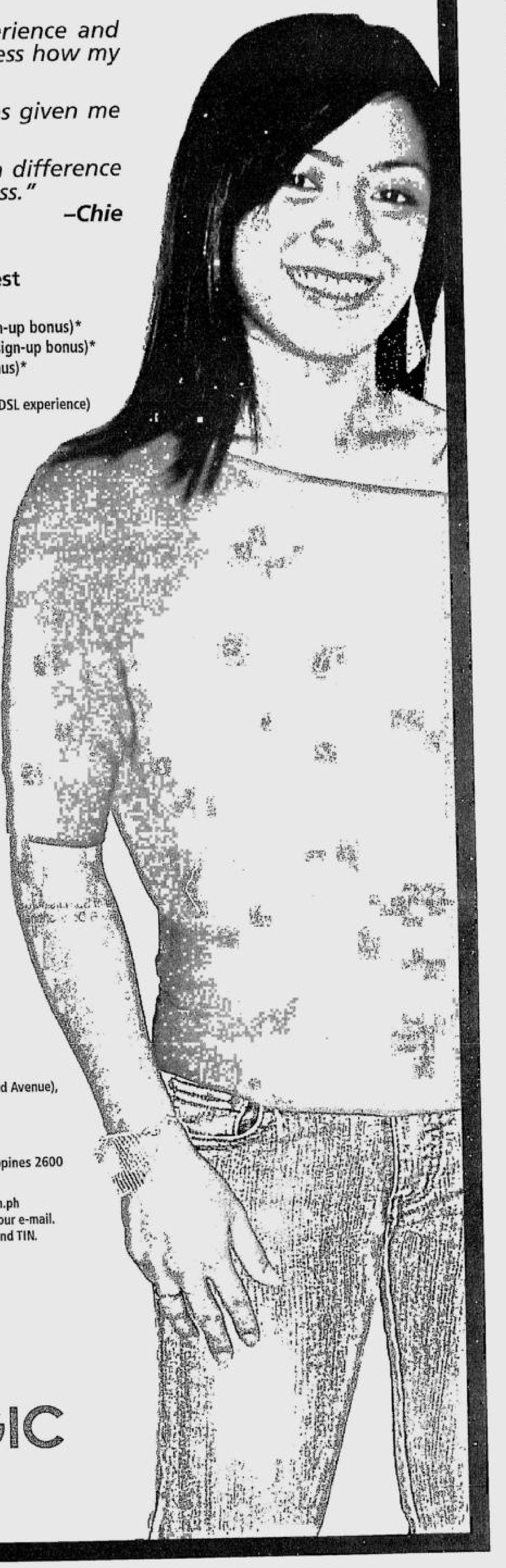
I love the life I live because it has given me direction to reach for my dreams.

It's all about passion of making a difference and hitting the bull's-eye of success."

–Chie



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Customer Service Representatives (Php 10,000.00,sign-up bonus)*
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Trainers/Learning Specialists (Php 50,000.00,sign-up bonus)*
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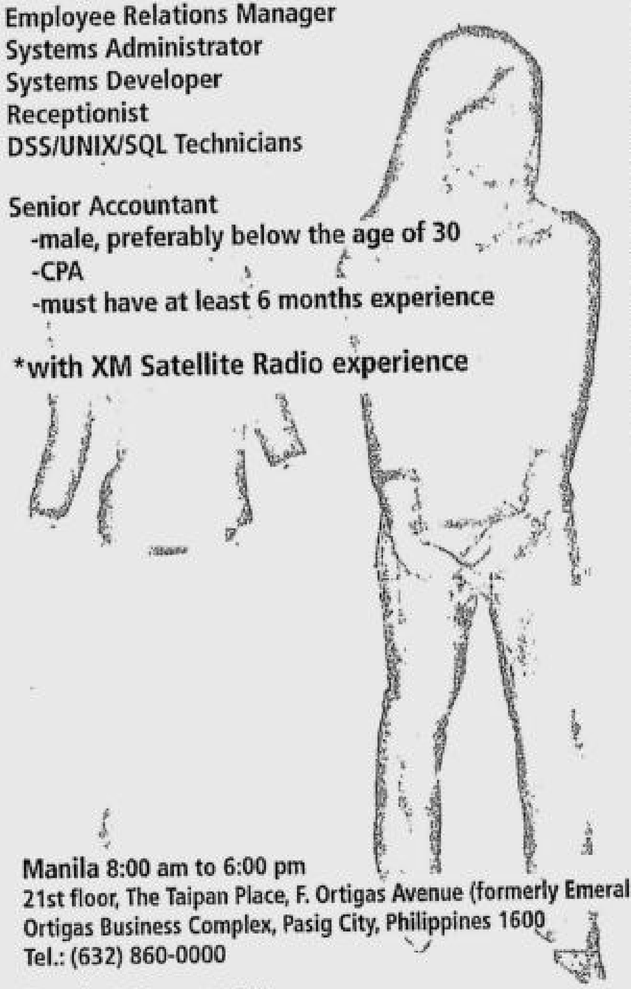
Customer Service Representatives (preferably with sales and DSL experience)
Spanish Speaking Representatives
Team Leaders
Reports Analyst
Workforce Analyst
Quality Analyst
Process Quality Analyst
Communications Trainer
Foundation Skills Learning Manager
Training Coordinator
Employee Relations Manager
Systems Administrator
Systems Developer
Receptionist
DSS/UNIX/SQL Technicians

Senior Accountant
-male, preferably below the age of 30
-CPA
-must have at least 6 months experience

*with XM Satellite Radio experience



Manila 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
21st floor, The Taipan Place, F. Ortigas Avenue (formerly Emerald Avenue),
Ortigas Business Complex, Pasig City, Philippines 1600
Tel.: (632) 860-0000

Baguio 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Baguio City Economic Zone, Loakan Road, Baguio City, Philippines 2600
Tel.: (074) 446-7410

You can send your resumé through: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph
Please indicate your desired position as the subject header of your e-mail.
For walk-ins, please bring your recent 2x2 photo and your SSS and TIN.

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SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST

Qualifications:
- Excellent English Language skills
- Baccalaureate Degree - BS or AB
- Proficient in use of MS Word, Excel, Internet & e-mail
- Good Interpersonal/customer service skills & comfortable w/ public speaking

Submit the ff. documents:
- Resumé with 2x2 picture
- Copy of Official Transcript of Records
- NBI Clearance
- Letters of recommendation from previous employers

Interested applicants can submit their requirements
at Unit 1, 2/F, Topy 1 Bldg. 3 Economia St.,
Bagumbayan, Quezon City

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EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION

is in immediate need of

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(Cargo & Passenger)

Qualifications:
- Male / Female
- Under 25 years old
- College graduate
- Fluent in English and with excellent interpersonal skills with people from all levels of management
- With pleasing personality, independent and aggressive
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Resides in Manila, Makati, Alabang, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Quezon City

Please send your resumé on or before July 21, 2006.

**Personnel Department
EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION
23rd Floor, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City**

A leading supplier of top brands of surveying instruments and materials testing equipment is currently in need of dynamic and responsible individuals for the positions of:

SALES ENGINEERS

- BS CE/GE/ECE/ME
- W/ or w/o sales exp.
- Good communication skills; comp. literate
- Willing to travel; w/ valid driver's license
- Excellent customer service skills
- Goal-oriented; mature; reliable

Successful applicants shall have: Basic salary, Allowance, Commission, Incentives. Free uniforms, Bonuses, Medical, dental & accident insurance • Opportunity to learn the latest technology in surveying and testing materials • Training under licensed professionals

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- College grad; female; single
- W/ at least 2 yrs. exp.
- Comp. proficient; detail oriented; organized
- Flexible; mature; tactful

Successful applicants shall have: Basic salary, Allowance, Free uniforms, Bonuses, Medical, dental & accident insurance • Growth opportunities

Please submit your comprehensive resumé w/ latest photo to:
Admin. Department Head
1800 A. Mendoza St., Sampaloc, Manila 1008
or email us at : **vic_smi@philonline.com.ph**

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (CFSI)

seeks qualified applicants with diverse backgrounds for the following posts. Expressions of interest as well as complete resumés should be submitted to the Screening Committee by **25 July 2006** through **headquarters@cfsi.ph** or MCC-PO Box 2733, Makati City. Responses will be sent to short-listed candidates only.

Project Director

Provide overall project leadership for a multi-donor funded capacity building programme, with a particular focus on conflict-affected communities in Mindanao. Ensure the achievement of the project's work program according to performance, time and quality standards. Refine and ensure full compliance with operations manuals developed for the project. Coordinate with all parties involved in the project, including partners, service providers, trainers, consultants, among others. Based in Manila with frequent travel to Mindanao.

Master's degree in public health, education, or the social sciences with at least seven years of progressively responsible service in a similar capacity; a significant experience in Mindano; a regional outlook and international exposure if not experience; excellent analytical, writing, and representational skills; a capacity for effectively managing a diverse workforce; and demonstrated experience in mobilising resources for organisational sustainability.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HR Manager
Female, 25 to 45 years old, knowledgeable in Human Labor Relations, experience in Human Resource Management is an advantage

Recruitment Assistant
Female, 20 to 30 years old, graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science, has excellent communication and interpersonal skills, fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Engineers
Male or female, 20 to 35 years old, graduate of Mechanical, Chemical, or Electrical Engineering, preferably with work experience and license

Chief Accountant
Male or female, at least 36 years old, must be a CPA, with related work experience

Accounting Staff
Male or female, 20 to 30 years old, graduate of Accountancy, fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Sales Associates (Bank)
Male or female, not more than 30 years old, with at least 2 years of college education, willing to do field works, assertive and with good communication skills; an attractive compensation package awaits qualified candidates

Sales Associates (Department Store)
Female, 25 to 45 years old, height must be strictly between 5'2" to 5'6" only, with fair complexion and must be good looking (no pimples/acne), preferably with college education, with at least one (1) year work experience (preferably in sales), willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila

Telemarketers
Male or female, with at least two years of college education, must have good communication skills

ISERVE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
6th floor Morning Star Center
347 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
890-9403, 890-0587, 895-8887
recruitment@iserve.com.ph
www.iserve.com.ph

AMELLAR 46 April Street, Congressional VII Project 8, Quezon City
http://www.amellar.com

The Leading ICT provider
for Local Government Units in the Philippines is in need of

Marketing Assistant

- Female, single, fresh graduate preferably AB Comm. Arts and Marketing
- Personable and professional with good moral character
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent organization and customer service skills
- Efficient, flexible, and team worker with proven ability to meet deadlines
- Willing to travel and do presentations
- Knowledgeable in MS Office (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)

Programmers

- Preferably graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course
- Knowledgeable in different programming languages preferably:
  - Visual C++, Visual Basic, XML, HTML, Java, JavaScript, VBScript, PHP
- Highly analytical, fast learner, fast worker and have strong self discipline
- Flexible and can work under pressure

Systems Analyst

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- Strong understanding of Object Oriented principles/concepts, Development experience using any object oriented programming language (Experience in SQL)
- At least 2 year(s) of work experience in IT (at least 1 year as a system analyst) is required for this position.
- Experience in supporting customers, preferably on mission critical solutions

Administrative Officer

- Female, at least 30 years old, graduate of BS Psychology
- Preferably 5 years experience in HR
- Excellent in interpersonal and communication skills
- Must possess high level of professionalism, integrity, and strict sense of confidentiality
- Can work under pressure and deadlines with minimum supervision
- Knowledgeable in MS Office (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)

For interested applicants, please send your letter of application and resume with picture to:

HR DEPARTMENT
46 April St. Congressional Village, Project 8, Quezon City
or send them to headhunter@amellar.com, preferably as MS Word documents.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (CFSI)

seeks qualified applicants with diverse backgrounds for the following posts. Expressions of interest as well as complete resumés should be submitted to the Screening Committee by **25 July 2006** through **headquarters@cfsi.ph** or MCC-PO Box 2733, Makati City. Responses will be sent to short-listed candidates only.

Comptroller

Manage the accounting and finance functions of the Organisation including forecasting, budgeting, fund management, tax accounting, internal audit, reporting, and compliance with Government requirements and donor expectations. Supervise on-site and field-based finance teams. Based in Manila.

CPA with at least five years of progressively responsible experience with fund accounting, ideally in the non-profit arena and for international donors/contractors.

Administrative Officer

Manage all personnel-related functions including recruitment, performance evaluation, benefits administration, travel arrangements, among others. Organize meetings and visits of board members, external consultants, officials and collateral contacts. Provide clerical services and administrative support including updating and scheduling services. Based in Manila.

Bachelor's degree in human resource management, psychology, business or related field with at least three years experience in similar capacity.

Mindanao Operations Coordinator

Manage all operations in Mindanao, with primary responsibility for programme planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. Ensure the effective and timely implementation of project agreements with contracting parties, according to performance, time and quality standards. Coordinate with all parties involved in the projects, including partners, service providers, trainers, consultants, among others. Based in Cotabato City.

Master's degree in public health, education, or the social sciences with at least seven years of progressively responsible service in a similar capacity; significant experience in Mindanao; a regional outlook and international exposure if not experience; excellent analytical, writing, and representational skills; a capacity for effectively managing a diverse workforce; and demonstrated experience in mobilising resources for organisational sustainability.

IFC
International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established a technical assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines (PEP Philippines). PEP Philippines, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, has offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

PEP Philippines is currently seeking a

Communications Assistant

for the Manila office.

The Communications Assistant works closely primarily with the Communications Officer, but will also support other project staff, as may be necessary, to contribute to the overall achievement of the team's work program. He/ she will also perform a full range of office support work for the PEP-Philippines Project staffs in Davao office.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- Passion for development issues, including private sector (business, finance, management, etc.) and its contribution to poverty reduction
- A graduate degree and prior experience in business administration is preferred
- Basic business writing and editing skills
- Above-average competence in Microsoft applications -- Word, Powerpoint, Excel
- 2-3 years experience in a related field
- Ability to handle projects and third party vendors
- Ability to source for information and conduct secondary research
- Willingness to also handle office administration
- Self-learner, resourceful and a team player

This position will require frequent domestic and international travels. The positions will be based in IFC's PEP Philippines Manila office. Salaries will be commensurate to qualification and experience. Candidates are invited to send resumes to contactuspepp@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on July 21, 2006. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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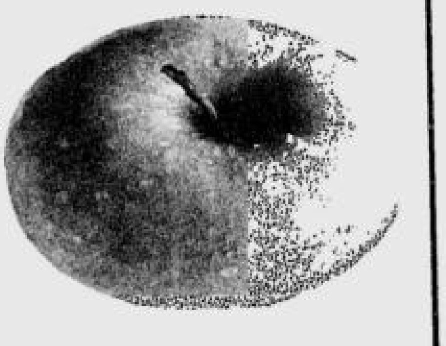

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- **Outbound Customer Service Representatives**
  - ✓ *Completed at least 2 years of college*
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  - ✓ *With strong orientation in customer service*
  - ✓ *Preferably with sales experience (for outbound CSR)*
- **Technical Support Representatives**
  - ✓ *Must possess basic computer skills including Windows or NT, Internet browser, Microsoft Office*
  - ✓ *Completed at least 2 years of college*
  - ✓ *Proficient in English*
- **Data Base Programmers**
  - ✓ *Graduate of 4 year course, preferably IT related*
  - ✓ *With at least 2 years of experience in the following programming Languages : PL-SQL, Cobol, JCL,REXX and Java*

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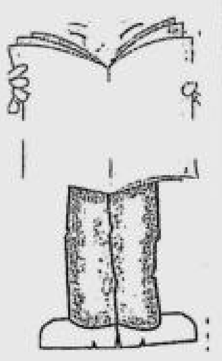

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ROVI MULTI-PRODUCTS, INC.

Is in need of the following qualified personnel

PROCESS/QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER

- **Male/Female 25-45 years old, Engineering graduate, experience in process manufacturing, Computer literate**

DRIVER

- **Male at least 30 years old, with experience as a family / company driver, non-smoker**

Interested applicants may send their resumé either by e-mail, fax or apply in person at B1 Warehouse Lietz Industrial Complex, Edison Ave., Brgy. Sun Valley, Parañaque City Fax# (02)823-5203 Email: rovimultiproducts@yahoo.com

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IMMEDIATELY NEEDED

Accounting Clerk

- Female, BSBA Graduate
- 20-25 years old
- Resident of Manila / Quezon City
- Knowledge in computer

BRING RESUMÉ AND
TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS @
4-A A. Bonifacio, La Loma Q.C.
Call: **711-3387 / 0917-8041986**

SALES SPECIALISTS

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Single or young parent, male or female please come or send your resume to:

babyland
#548 Facilities Ctr. Building, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

WANTED:

ACCOUNTANT

- 2YRS. EXPERIENCE, PREF. IN QUARRY BUSINESS

SUBMIT: RESUMÉ/TRANSCRIPT/REFERRALS/ CONTACT NUMBER

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AT TEL.# 6341668-69/0917-3944037 MON TO FRI 8AM TO 5PM

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5 yrs. exp.

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for free lance

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STRONG HOLD
161 Boni Ave., Plainview,
Mandaluyong
533-3849, 0915-3174632
look for Jenny

HIRING/NEED

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT

College graduate, Male, 20-28 years old, at least 5'6", presentable, aggressive, good communication skills, dynamic and ambitious. P10K Basic, plus commission and incentives.

Mobile No. 0920-5236124

NFA assures stable supply of rice in Capiz

ROXAS CITY – THE National Food Authority assured residents of Capiz province of stable supply of rice for the lean months of July to September.

NFA provincial manager Sergio Balofiños said the NFA will continue to sell affordable rice through the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke and Tindahan Natin outlets.

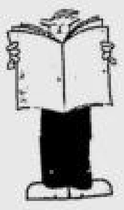
Balofiños said the NFA Capiz has a total of 42,000 bags of imported rice from Vietnam stored in various warehouses in Iloilo. These stocks will distributed to NFA-accredited outlets in 17 municipalities in the province. The NFA also has 29,000 bags of imported Vietnam rice stored at the Bolo Grains Center.

Meanwhile, the NFA is closely monitoring the availability of rice stocks in the market with the regular deployment of its monitoring teams composed of employees of the food agency.

Balofiños is encouraging the public to report to the NFA any irregularities committed by any NFA-accredited rice retailers to enable the agency to go after erring rice businessmen.

For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

Where you find the best.



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The **Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (IIEE)**, a non-profit, non-stock technical, professional association for the Filipino electrical practitioners, is in need of:

(I) COMMUNICATION STAFF

- Shall serve as the in-house writer for the Institute, will handle its institutional communications programs
- Provide editorial layout support to the various publications of IIEE such as magazines, collateral, souvenir programs etc.
- Bachelor of Science in Journalism, English, Mass Communication and other related courses
- W/ at least two years experience in a related capacity
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Proficient in written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino
- Computer literate with facility in office programs (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Pagemaker, Photoshop, etc.)
- Organized and systematic, customer oriented, can work well in a team environment, with pleasing personality, honest, can work under pressure

(I) MARKETING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Shall assist in conceptualizing and implementing strategies and plans to market/promote the various services and products of the Institute.
- Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, Marketing, Business Management or any other related field/courses
- W/ at least three years experience in a related capacity
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Proficient in written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino
- Computer literate with facility in office programs (Word, Excel, Powerpoint etc.)
- Organized and systematic, customer oriented, can work well in a team environment, with pleasing personality, honest, can work under pressure

All qualified applicants may hand-carry their bio-data, transcript of records, 2 pcs. 2 x 2 pictures at the IIEE Office located at #41 Monte de Piedad Street, Cubao, Quezon City or send these via email at **iiee@iiee.info**

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Apply in person:
3F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave, Makati City (Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm).
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Come early for same day processing.

Email your resume:
yourcareer@eperformax.com

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(Must use capital "E")

EXAMPLE
`Eperformax Juan dela Cruz yes yes`

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Smart and **Talk n' Text** send to 09178902327.

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- **Customer Service Agents (Card Services)**
- **Technical Support Engineers**
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We offer:
- Increase in Base Pay every 6 months
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- Free Cell Phones and Post Paid Service Package*
- Management Training Program**

* On qualified programs
** Must have college degree. Qualification is based on test scores and interviews.

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- Sales Engineers
- Marketing & Comm. Officer
- Graphic Artist
- Telemarketer

TECHNICAL

- Systems Engineers
- Technical Support Engineers
- Systems Programmer
- Systems Administrator

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Inventory Administrator
- Admin. Staff
- Receptionist/PABX Operator
- Credit & Collection Staff
- Accounting Staff
- HR Staff

Please send your resume with an ID photo to:

The HR Department
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
3/F Limketkai Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila 1502
● E-mail: hrd@ics.com.ph ● For information on ICS visit www.ics.com.ph

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CIVIL ENGINEER

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Knowledge in CAD
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ACCOUNTING CLERK

Qualification: Graduate of BS-Accountancy with or without experience, computer literate and of good moral character.

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Join us in charting the path of a fast growing and stable bank.

If you are a highly motivated, competent and assertive professional, then you are the person we are looking for to fill in the following positions:

Account Officers (Consumer Loans & Account Management Group)
- Male or Female, with ages 25 to 35 years old.
- Business Course graduate, with MBA degree or units a plus
- AO Candidate for AMG should have an existing portfolio of 30 to 50 qualified borrowing accounts.
- With at least 3 years experience in generating & evaluating loan accounts gained from a bank/financial institution
- With good analytical skills & credit judgment
- With excellent communication & marketing skills
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

Branch Managers
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- Not more than 45 years old
- With at least 3 years experience as Branch Head of a bank
- Must possess excellent managerial & leadership skills
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

Legal Services Head
- Graduate of Bachelor of Laws from a reputable school
- Must be a member in good standing of the Philippine Bar
- With extensive exposure in Legal Research & actual litigation work
- Assertive, with excellent communication skills & computer literate
- Banking experience an advantage
- Not more than 45 years old

Treasury Marketing Officer
- Business Course graduate
- With extensive experience in treasury operations, treasury product marketing & dealership preferably with portfolio (captured accounts)

Branch Operations Officers
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With at least 2 years experience as Branch Operations Officer of a bank or its equivalent
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

IT Auditor
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- With experience in audit of various automated banking systems and operations
- With excellent communication skills
- Knows how to build/create software application using Visual Basic

Risk Management Officer
- Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 3 years experience in Risk Management particularly in Credit, Market, Operational (includes technological), Liquidity & Compliance
- Knowledgeable in Credit Evaluation/ Review, BSP Rules and Regulations, AMLA, Securities and Exchange Act, Insurance Act, Tax Laws & other laws affecting financial institutions.
- Understands the Philippine Financial Reporting System (PFRS)
- With excellent English communication and technical report writing skills

Marketing Assistants
- Business Course graduate
- With above average scholastic records
- With pleasing personality & excellent interpersonal skills
- With strong sales & marketing background
- With excellent oral & written communication skills

Tellers & New Accounts Clerks
- Female, graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With above average scholastic records
- Must have pleasing personality & above average communication skills
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

Replacement Pool for Tellers and New Accounts Clerk
- Graduate of any 4-year Business Course
- With pleasing personality
- With above average scholastic records & communication skills
- Willing to be assigned in different branches

Treasury Trader
- Male/Female
- Graduate of any Business Course
- Ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage

Trust Accounting Clerk
- Business Course graduate major in Accounting
- With above average scholastic records & communication skills
- Work experience in Trust Operations would be an advantage

Qualified applicants may send or personally submit their resume with 2x2 picture, and a copy of Transcript of Records at 350 Rizal Avenue Extension, Cor. 8th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City or email at batimana_am@pbb.com.ph or visit our website at www.pbb.com.ph.

For inquiries, please call (02) 363-3333 local 2005/2007 look for Aileen.

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- Junior Financial Analyst
- Accountant

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- Oracle Database Administrator
- Website Writer
- Information System Specialist
- IT Helpdesk Associate

SUPPORT GROUP:
- Corporate Communications Specialist
- Customer Relations Specialist
- Telesales
- Payroll Specialist
- Junior Consultant (Research Specialist)

For more details, please visit the following websites and apply online:
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www.2go.com.ph
www.superferry.com.ph
You may also submit your updated resume to:
Human Resource for Results Department
12th Floor Times Plaza Building UN Cor Taft Ave., Manila

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SPi

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SPi is a leading global BPO provider with numerous locations across the Unites States, Europe, and Asia. With over 6,500 employees worldwide, we deliver scalable and innovative content outsourcing solutions to diversified markets.

We are always looking for more of the right people to help us provide our worldwide clients with high quality, cost-effective content outsourcing solutions.

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- Experience working in any GM Autoworld / Chevrolet dealership is an advantage

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- At least 1 year experience in the industry, particularly in the body & paint operation
- Excellent communication and customer handling skills

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- Excellent oral and written communication skills

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CORPORATE & LEGAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

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- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Computer literate

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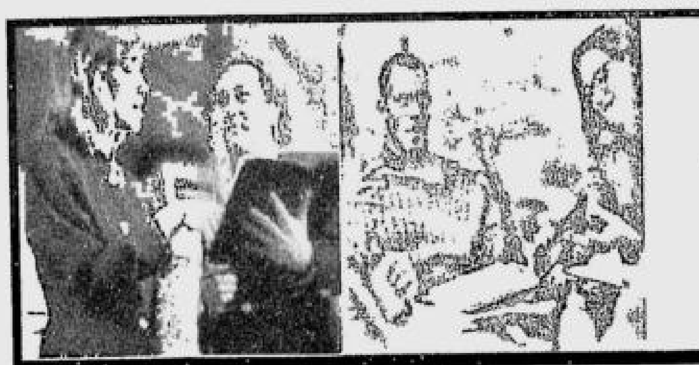

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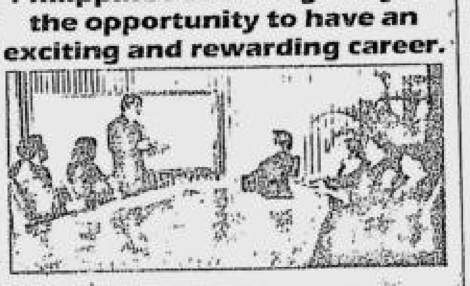

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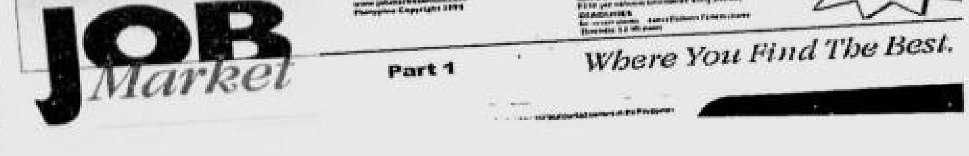

NFA Kidapawan launches iron-fortified rice program

KIDAPAWAN CITY — To address iron deficiency anemia in the province of North Cotabato, the provincial office of the National Food Authority has launched the iron fortification program here recently.

Since last year, the NFA has intensified its fight against micronutrient deficiency especially among school children and lactating mothers.

A rice outlet operated by Grace Tamayo has been tapped by the NFA to sell iron-fortified rice which which will be supplied by the Alberto Lumbayan Rice Mill. Commercial iron-fortified rice is being sold at P25 per kilogram, while NFA's iron-fortified rice is sold at P18 per kilogram.

The NFA's regional office in region XII has started distributing iron-fortified rice through the agency's accredited outlets such as Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke and Tindahan Natin outlets. A total of 19,987 bags of iron-fortified rice were distributed to these outlets as well as to the Farmers Incentive Rice Purchase (FAIR) program, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Food for School program of the Department of Education.

For more information on NFA's iron-fortification program, the public may send their concerns via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

Phil. Madrigals win grand prize in choral tilt

THE PHILIPPINE Madrigal Singers scored another triumph for the country when it emerged as the Grand Prize winner in the Florilege Vocal de Tours 2006 last June 4 in Tours, France.

The Philippine Madrigal Singers bested 14 other choirs, earning them the Grand Prix de La Ville de Tours (Grand Prize). This victory gives them the right to compete in the 2007 European Grand Prix in Choral Singing.

The group also received the Prix Special Renaissance (separate category for a purely Renaissance program) and First Prizes in the Mixed Vocal Ensemble Category and in the Free Program Category.

The Florilege Vocal de Tours is one of only 6 prestigious European choral competitions that culminate in the European Grand Prix in Choral Singing. Champions from the six competition venues, Tours (France), Tolosa (Spain), Arezzo (Italy), Gorizia (Italy), Debrecen (Hungary), and Varna (Bulgaria)—compete for one Grand Prize and the prestige of being recognized as the world champion of choral singing.

Presently, the group is on an 11-city, 7-country tour of Europe.

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- Excellent leadership, time management, listening, detail-orientation, analytic, and critical reasoning skills
- Impeccable spoken, written communication and presentation skills
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- Willing to work on shifting schedules

Customer Service Manager (Operations)

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- Must have cross-functional and/or matrix management experience
- Must have a thorough understanding of business operations, development, customer service and improvement concepts
- Knowledgeable on project management, organizational management, including manpower and resource forecasting responsibilities
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- Demonstrate excellent communication and presentation skills, both written and oral
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- Application letter
- Certified True Copy of Transcript of Records

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Global OFW deployment rises

THE DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers (OFWs) rose by 1.69 percent or by 9,387 from 555,533 to 564,920 within the first six months of 2006, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said.

A Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) report to Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion attributed the increase in OFW deployment worldwide to a higher OFW rehiring rate in various land-based industries worldwide, as well as the increased demand for the services of skilled overseas Filipino seafarers in the global shipping arena.

The report showed that a total of 136,763 overseas Filipino seafarers, and 428,157 documented land-based OFWs, have been deployed to more than 180 host destinations globally between January 1 to June 29, 2006.

Brion said that the rising trend in OFW deployment augurs well on the DOLE's efforts to reinvigorate global OFW marketing initiatives through the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs), and to sustain the thrust towards better protection and welfare at their overseas work sites.

The Labor Chief emphasized that promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the OFWs remain as the DOLE's primary responsibility amidst its efforts to support employment generation in the Philippine economy, in coordination with other agencies and sectors.

"As we build up our global marketing thrusts, we are confident that we shall inch closer to achieving, if not surpassing, our 1-million goal in total documented OFWs deployed worldwide as the year 2006 progresses," Brion said.

Meanwhile, Labor Undersecretary for Employment Danilo P. Cruz, said that land-based OFW deployment has been reinforced by a robust 6.8 percent (18,380) growth in rehired OFWs worldwide to 288,820 as of June 29, 2006, from 270,440 in the same period in 2005.

Cruz added that the total number of Filipino seafarers continues to rise to higher levels in the global shipping industry based on the strength of the Philippines' consistent compliance with the amended Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Cruz also bared that as of June 29, 2006, an increment increase of 16,007, from 120,756 in the same period last year to 136,763 highly skilled overseas Filipino seafarers have been deployed globally, representing a growth rate of 13.3 percent.

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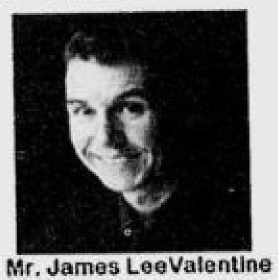

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Introvert wants to fit in

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME TO work, having graduated in October last year. I've been working as a specialist for the past five months in a good company but I don't feel a sense of belonging to our section. I like my job but I think the people I work with, my peers, don't show to me that they welcome me and that they like me. I'm okay in my physical appearance and I speak good English. My boss, a motherly lady, gave me an orientation and introduced me to my peers the first week on the job. Since then, she has not taken steps to integrate me into her section. She is very busy attending meetings practically the whole day. Nobody talks to me. I eat alone in the pantry with no one bothering to talk to me.

On Friday evenings, every single man and woman in our department and in our office goes out to have fun. I wait for someone to invite me but no one does. I am sad and lonely. I feel ashamed that no one seems to like me.

Ms Sad and Lonely

Obviously you are an introvert and are not disposed to initiate social interactions. You are uncomfortable and feel isolated being on your own and are waiting for your peers to make the first move so that you can feel welcomed. You want to be befriended but you don't want to initiate making friends. If you just wait for your peers to come to you or for your boss to put you in touch with others, you are going to continue feeling sad and lonely. And this will only make you feel miserable. You will also be perceived as a loner. Organizations nowadays value teamwork; they want their employees to coordinate and collaborate with one another and to network within and outside the organization for better quality of work and improved service delivery.

Change what you think

How about taking a proactive, rather than, a reactive stance? This means that you are the one to initiate social interactions with your co-employees.

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

You can start by changing the following mindsets, which I can infer from your email: "People here don't like;" "No one likes to talk to me;" "I don't belong;" "I am sad and lonely;" etc. Change these into the following positive affirmations: "People here like me if I make myself likeable;" "I like myself and can make others like me;" "I like my job and my company and I will exert my utmost to remain here;" "I will smile and talk to people so that they can smile at and talk to me, too."

Set as your daily objective to talk with at least two co-employees from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every work day. You can increase the number of social interactions after a record of success. "Success" here is defined as your ability to meet your daily quota of social interactions which you initiate.

Good working relationship

When you see people along the corridor, in the ladies room, in the pantry, etc., establish eye contact and smile at them. To the person who will sit beside you, whether male or female, young or older, initiate conversation with a "What department are you in?"; "How long have you been here?" etc. Listen with interest to the answers to your questions. Answer the questions they also ask of about you. Do this with every person you sit with over lunch at the pantry. Each time you initiate a conversation, give yourself a "pat on your back," which means, you smile to yourself, feel good about yourself, and say to yourself "I did it!"

Have a good working relationship with your internal customers. These are your co-employees who need or wait for your output, and your boss to whom you report. To the former you can ask feedback about your work. Then ask "How do you want my work/report improved?", then paraphrase what they say. To your boss, ask to see her before the workday ends, then ask for feedback and suggestion on how she would want you to improve your work. Share with her what your coworkers suggest, and ask for her agreement.

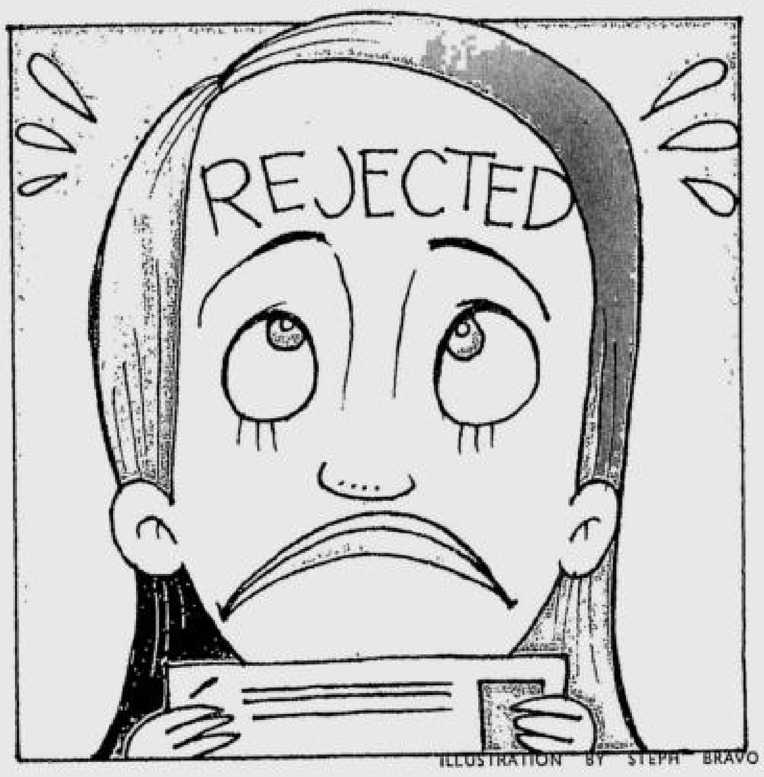


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Read up

Use the lunch break to socialize with co-employees. Don't always stay in the pantry since traffic there is fast with fewer seats to accommodate the number who come to eat. Go to the canteen or cafeteria and sit with employees you see in your section or department. Go with your peers who take lunch outside the building. Once you start making friends, you will be invited to go out for those Friday nights out.

You may have an introverted nature but you can overcome your tendencies to behavior by behaving positively. One of the important one-liners that the famous Dale Carnegie has given is: "Like people and people will like you." Have positive expectations of others and they will behave according to your expectations.

I suggest you also invest in a good book like Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People," John Maxwell's leadership books, Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," among others. Read them, reflect on the concepts and apply these concepts in your dealings with people. I also suggest you read the editorial pages of newspapers, listen to the news over the radio and watch TV for current events so that you will have something to talk about rather than the usual "chikahan." God Bless You.

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc., a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services. She has written the following books: "Career Counseling: Cases and Techniques," "L ife/Career Planning Workbook," "Managing Work and Career" and "Managing Your Career To The Top," all available at leading bookstores. Send feedback about this career advice to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.*)*

Jesus' management style

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

NORMALLY WHEN AN EMPLOYER OR MANAGER ASSIGNS A SPEcial work or mission to someone, he would also provide the necessary means and resources for him to accomplish successfully the task. Otherwise, the former should not wonder why his worker could fail or would find him inefficient or unproductive.

Jesus seems to be a different kind of "manager;" He gave work to His disciples, sending them for a mission but instructed them "to take nothing for the journey." He did not provide them with the necessary logistics, so to say, though, He "gave them authority"—something like a special kind of logistics. With such special power Jesus gave them, the disciples effectively achieved the given tasks.

I think that even in business or in the workplace, Jesus' way of managing finds its place. It is a type of management which relies not only on the material, financial and other tangible means, but also on the acceptance of the value and necessity of the spiritual and divine elements. It is a management that considers the worker essentially as a being "created in the image and likeness of God" and not just as a physical or material part of the production machinery; thus, it would provide the worker not only every material and physical satisfaction for his needs, but would also promote his growth in the faith and would satisfy his spiritual needs.

Management, I believe, should endeavor to build an environment where everyone could sense the presence of Jesus, the Manager, and thereby could experience a special kind of power—faith in Jesus—which would make everyone effective and productive. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The workplace as mission land

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

I LIKE THIS PARTICULAR GOSPEL READING FOR TODAY—IT IS easy to grasp, shows Jesus' no-nonsense approach to evangelizing, and so practicable in the workplace. Why the workplace? Because there, learning and teaching are a part and parcel of our daily struggle. By what we do we can't help but "teach" others; by our mistakes we can't avoid "learning" from others. Our places of work are "mission land" in a way. Whatever religion we profess, that's where our faith is tried: we witness to our religious beliefs by our conduct of work, our behavior, our work style.

If we are particularly ethical—that is, trying our best to do our work correctly, and according to the highest standards we have been taught—we may find that not all of our coworkers are as ethical, moral or conscientious as everybody should be. So, out of a spirit of cooperativeness and compassion, we try to "instruct" others—sometimes explicitly, as when we correct subordinates' mistakes, and at other times subtly, as in teaching by example. Our intention is to get our shared work done right by assisting a fellow-worker who may benefit from our experience and knowledge.

But alas, not everybody is receptive to our goodwill. People tending to be so competitive at work nowadays, many become suspicious of offers of help, especially if they feel they are not very sure of themselves. Here is where the Gospel lesson comes handy: applied in the workplace, it simply tells us that although we feel we are "sent" to set things straight, we should also know when to stop. When our teaching and preaching is unwelcome, we must stop. It's time to "shake the dust off our feet" and go—without judging, nor sentimental backward glances. They will learn, too, sooner or later. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel - Mark 6: 7-13

He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey …

Invalid wants to earn real money

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

GREETINGS! FOR THE PAST Sundays I have been reading the letters in your advice column and finally summoned enough courage to send you mine. I am currently in my late 30s and currently unemployed.

I graduated with an Engineering degree in 1990 but was unable to take the board and practice when my father died just two months after graduation. It was during this time that we learned of the debts that my father incurred in setting up our small family business which was at its infancy. Even our house was mortgaged. To make things short, I ended up in the family business to do my share in helping settle the problems. However, at the back of my mind I hoped that one day, I would be able to practice my profession as things got better.

However, this did not happen. Many unfortunate events happened since then that seems like something out of a *telenovela*. Let us just say that I blindly sacrificed everything, including money I earned on my own, for the family without setting aside anything for myself. The daily stress and physical demands took its toll on my body and my health went downhill from there. One day, I found myself penniless, unappreciated and suffering from various illnesses, including an eye disease. Having no money, I stayed in this state for almost two years and became depressed.

With the help and encouragement of my mother and sister, together with a compassionate former schoolmate who is an eye surgeon, vision on one eye was restored. Although I had to wear reading glasses, this tremendously helped in lifting up my spirits. Improvements in my diet and exercise brought slight relief from the pain and I was able to move (with a limp) about the house. However, upon venturing outside, I often return swollen and stiff. This left me bedridden for up to two weeks at a time.

Having no source of income, I tried to apply for jobs. I even passed screenings at call centers but I could not return because I would become bedridden. I realized that in my present state, no one will hire me. Just trying to get to work is a very big problem. Even now, I have to plan when to go out so that I can do everything in one go because I know that the next chance I get will be after a week or more. For now, I can only work at home.

I said to myself that I have to rely on the skills that I still have. I dabbled in drawing and built models when I was still very young but considered it more as a hobby. I did not pursue and develop it as I got older. So with stiff fingers and limited eyesight (affecting depth perception), I tried to see if I could still do it. I am by no means an artist, and I know nothing about anatomy, colors and light. But I managed to post some samples in the Internet which I use as a sort of online portfolio. Based on the comments I got, I need to work on my anatomy and improve technique. Lately, I am also trying to learn (on my own) clay sculpting (to design and build toy action figures) and Flash 8 Animation. I hope to improve so that I can earn a decent living from at least one of these skills.

But I am limited because of financial constraints. As of now, I earn from writing articles (fantastic as it seems) that I submit on the Net, reselling some products (a small venture with a younger sibling) and networking. I used my earnings to buy materials and books which are expensive especially that I am still learning the basics. I often e-mail those looking for illustrators who may settle with my current skill level to look at my portfolio. No luck as of yet. A dream job will be that of a toy designer or a regular contributor to a website.

At this point, I am seeking advice and help from you on what to do next. Perhaps point me to the right direction or help me meet new contacts. I have to earn real money. The maintenance of daily medications is expensive. I have to spend the little I earn sparingly. The pursuit in trying to improve my "skill" is oftentimes put on hold to the realities of life. Sometimes, I think that it is too late in the game in trying to teach an old dog new tricks. But I find strength in seeing others in far worse conditions able to proudly make a difference. I just want to be one of them and earn my keep. But as the saying goes, "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

Lonely Man

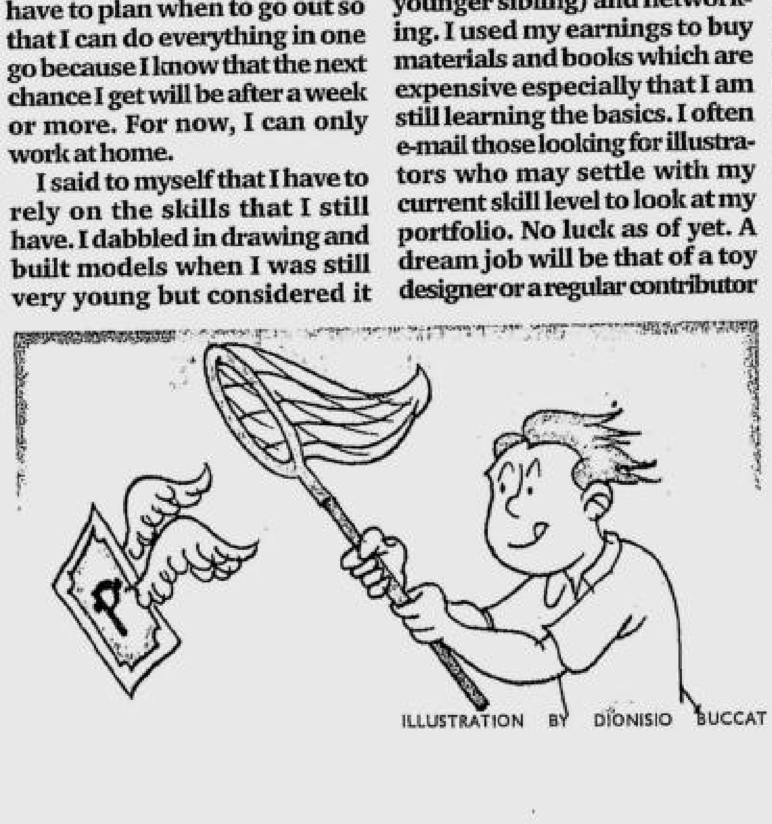


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Thank you for your letter. You gave me a vivid description of the past. It made me understand your situation better. But past is past. What is important is to live the present moment well. I admire the fact that you have tried to develop and earn from your talents while staying at home. In this sense, you are in the right direction working through the Internet to earn some money.

I can see several options for you considering the fact that you can work only from the home. One is to scale-up your current home business so that it is able to bring in more cash for you. Two, it is not true that you cannot teach old dogs new tricks. You have to believe in the capacity of the human person to flex his brain muscles. History is replete with senior citizens, like our own Carlos P. Romulo, who continued to learn in his 80s.

I encourage you to continue to learn the art of animation. This is clearly a growth area in terms of outsourcing. May I call the attention of companies engaged in animation outsourcing. Our readers might want to consider jobs that Mr. Lonely Man can do from the home. I am sorry that I do not have personal contacts in this area.

Then you might want to look at Internet-based search companies and check out jobs that can be done from the house. I also noted that you have a good command of written English. Check if you are equally proficient with grammar, accent and pronunciation. You might want to hang an "English Tutor Available" sign at your front door. Are you equally good in math or in playing a musical instrument? These competencies you can leverage as well. We invite our readers to support you in your desire to be financially sufficient by giving you referrals or information.

My final advice: develop your personal vision and mission which have the power to inspire and encourage you to move forward especially when you are feeling low. Then, never forget the power of prayer. What is impossible for men is possible with God. I believe in the Gospel that "faith can move mountains."

Finally, I wish to invite entrepreneurs and chief executive officers of large, medium and small companies, heads of NGOs, foundations, and government agencies to the CEO 1000 Summit to be held at Hotel Philippine Plaza on Sept. 27 and Sept. 28. We promise you a historic learning event. Please contact Mr. Ric Bartolome at 892-2895 to 98.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. For feedback, kindly e-mail advice@ancillaedc.com.ph*, or fax 892-2902. You may also check Ms Puangco's blog at* www.pinoyatwork.livejournal.com. *For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

Love, good life for 2 Tesda-Jitco trainees

By Danilo P. Cruz

(Conclusion)

When Romeo Bautista was still young, he never thought of going to Japan or to any foreign country. He thought he could not live without his family beside him.

At 27, single and residing in Sampaloc, Manila, he was surprised when his boss called and informed him that New Diversified Foundation Inc, another Tesda-accredited sending organization, was looking for machine operators to be trained in one of the prestigious companies in Nagoya, Japan.

This opportunity was beyond his expectation. He almost hesitated to say "yes" to his boss.

Bautista could not believe things were happening so fast. New Diversified Foundation Inc called him up to report to its offices for appearance at the Japanese embassy. Three days after, his visa was released.

His first month in Japan was hard. He missed his family so much. He concentrated himself in his work to ease his loneliness and homesickness, and to temporarily forget about the Philippines.

His free time with his co-trainees had helped him assuage the loneliness. Soon, he learned to adjust to the Japanese lifestyle.

He learned from the Japanese their important characteristic of being always on the go and being very hardworking regardless of their age and gender.

Bautista was amazed at Japan's state of high technology. He took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the techniques of machine operation.

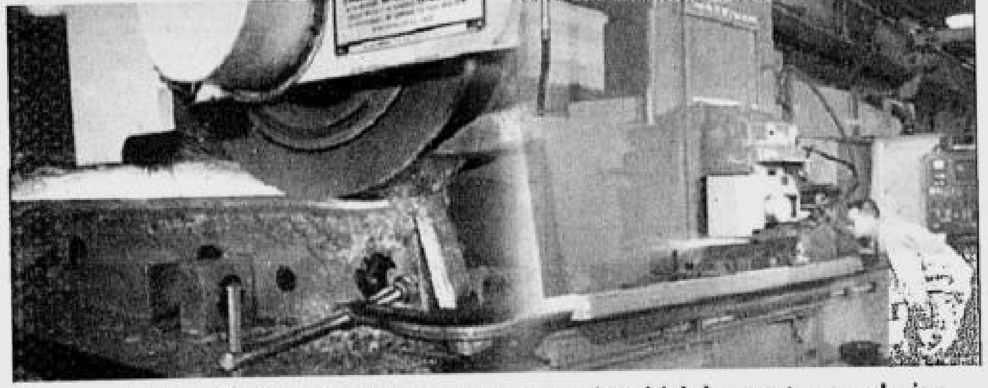
Sizing up Japan in its entirety, Bautista is not surprised that this country is one of the richest in the world.

In love with a Japanese girl

ROMEO BAUTISTA

Bautista's stay in Japan became more memorable for having met a Japanese girl who gave him inspiration. He fell in love with her.

"My life became so colorful and complete as she loves me," Bautista said about his relationship with the Japanese girl. "I was so inspired in my work. She gave me encouragement and comfort," he added.

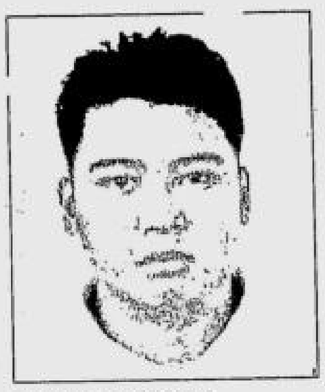

So amazed at Japan's hi-tech machines, Romeo Bautista (right) operates one during his on-the-job three-year training in Japan.

When Bautista's three-year contract ended, he was excited to go home and be with his family, but he also felt sad thinking of the separation from his girlfriend.

Now at home, he started putting up a machine shop in his place in Sampaloc, Manila, and started construction of his own house.

Recalling his earlier principle in life, he said: "I realized that I could have made a wrong decision. This turn of fate made me firm in my belief that sacrifice is the key to success."

As to his girlfriend he left in Japan, he consoles himself with the thought that this is just a trial for both of them, he said.


ERWIN GERNALE

"I remain confident that if we are really meant for each other, God will make a way in bringing us together again. What is more important to both of us is to remain faithful and true to each other."

A person builds his own destiny

Erwin C. Gernale of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, says he is a firm believer of the saying: A person builds his own destiny.

Erwin is the second among three children. He wanted to pursue college, but could not afford it. His mother was the only breadwinner in the family and her earnings could not support the basic needs of the family.

Despite the saying, luck gave him a chance. Unexpectedly, he was hired as a machine operator at Jag Freight Services Inc for two years.

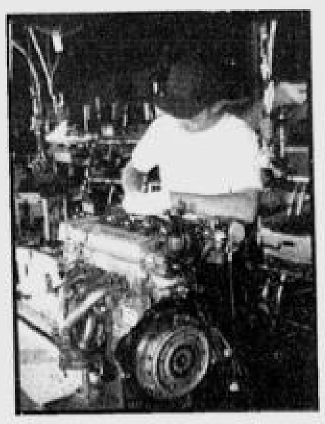
He wanted to help in the schooling of his sister, but he could not afford it. He also planned to look for an overseas job, but he had no money to spend for the requirements.

That did not stop Gernale from dreaming and praying that one day all his dreams would become a reality. Gernale had to thank the Tesda-Jitco skills technology transfer program through the New Diversified Foundation Inc after he was chosen by his company to be sent to Japan for training. He was assigned as a machine operator at one of the biggest Toyota manufacturing companies in Nagoya.

Gernale left the Philippines Aug. 14, 2002. When he arrived in Japan, he could not believe it and almost had to slap himself to convince himself he was not dreaming.

Life in Japan was colorful, according to Gernale. There were many unexplained and unexpected feelings that made him cry. He missed his family and friends. His training helped him overcome his homesickness.

He always prayed to God to give him strength and perseverance. Soon he had adjusted himself to the environment, the training area and the lifestyle in Japan.


Erwin Gernale operating one of the state-of-the-art machines in a Toyota manufacturing company in Nagoya, Japan.

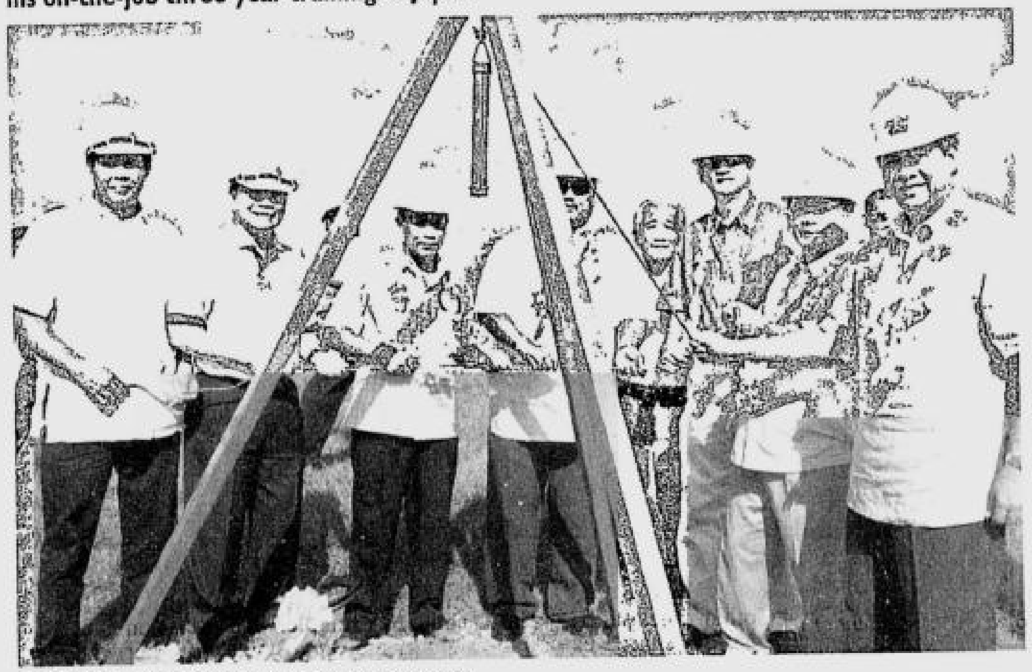
Gernale admitted that training in Japan was "very hard," but he found it challenging because of the state-of – art machines and equipment.

"I am very proud of myself," Gernale said, "because of what I have accomplished."

After three years, his family's economic status has changed. They now have a house and lot of their own, and a small business in Baguio.

"I am very thankful of how my life has turned out," Gernale said. "I always pray, and will keep on praying, for God's blessings, because with Him, nothing is impossible."

With reports from Anacleto I. Dizon and Maya Martinez


GAMU GROUNDBREAKING

The National Transmission Corporation recently held the groundbreaking ceremony of the 50 MVA Gamu Substation Project in Barangay Lenzon, Gamu Isabela. Once completed in March 2007, the new substation will directly connect to the various load-end substations in the province of Isabela particularly in the cities of Roxas, Ilagan, Naguilian, and Reina Mercedes which are serviced by the Isabela Electric Cooperative (Iselco). Transco President and CEO Dr. Alan T. Ortiz (extreme right) said "Isabela – the province known to be the 2nd largest in terms of land area, 1st in rice production and 2nd in corn production in the whole country, deserves a power expansion project like this to boost its commerce and industry and that of the entire Cagayan Valley Region. Other officials who participated in the groundbreaking rites include (from left) Transco Asst.-VP Fernando S. Abesamis, VP Guillermo R. Redoblado, Isabela Representative Peter Reyes, Gamu Mayor Fernando O. Cumigad, Dr. Venancio O. Villarta, ERC Head-Executive Assistant Antonio Albano, and Isabela Vice Governor Ramon M. Reyes.

NEW PAG-IBIG OFFICE IN TAGUM, MINDANAO

Pag-IBIG President and CEO lawyer Romero Quimbo (center) leads the opening of the new Pag-IBIG provincial branch office in Tagum, Mindanao, as part of the Fund's efforts to bring its services closer to its more than six million members nationwide. Assisting lawyer Quimbo are (from left), Tessie M. Gonzales, senior vice president for operations, Pag-IBIG Fund, Pag-IBIG Trustee Rosemarie R. Adjawie, Government Employees' Representative, Pag-IBIG Fund Board, Jaime A. Fabiana, executive vice president and deputy chief executive officer, Pag-IBIG Fund, and Elizabeth V. Tinagan, manager for Tagum Branch, Pag-IBIG Fund.

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- 3 years supervisory experience
- Solid background in writing awareness raising campaigns and publications
- Familiarity in managing and using a website as a powerful tool for communication
- Familiarity in tri-media dealings; can confidently speak to various audience and communication channels
- Experience in dealing with service providers related to publications
- Preferably with exposure in non-government institutions and/or environmental sector

Site Team Leader/Site Conservation Action Associate

Coordinates all on-site project actions with multi-sector stakeholders and other potential project partners.

- Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences or similar field, Post graduate degree is an advantage
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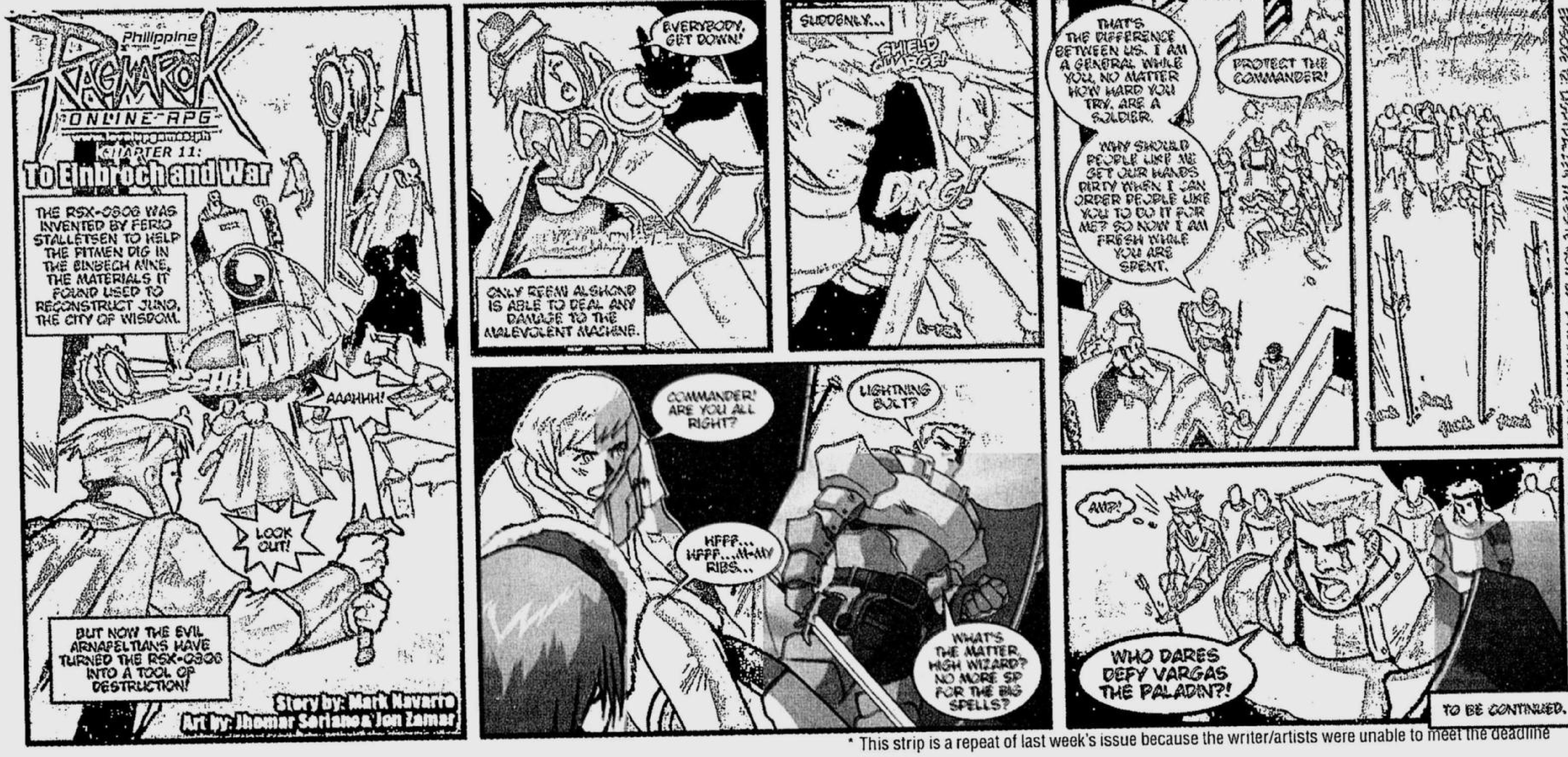
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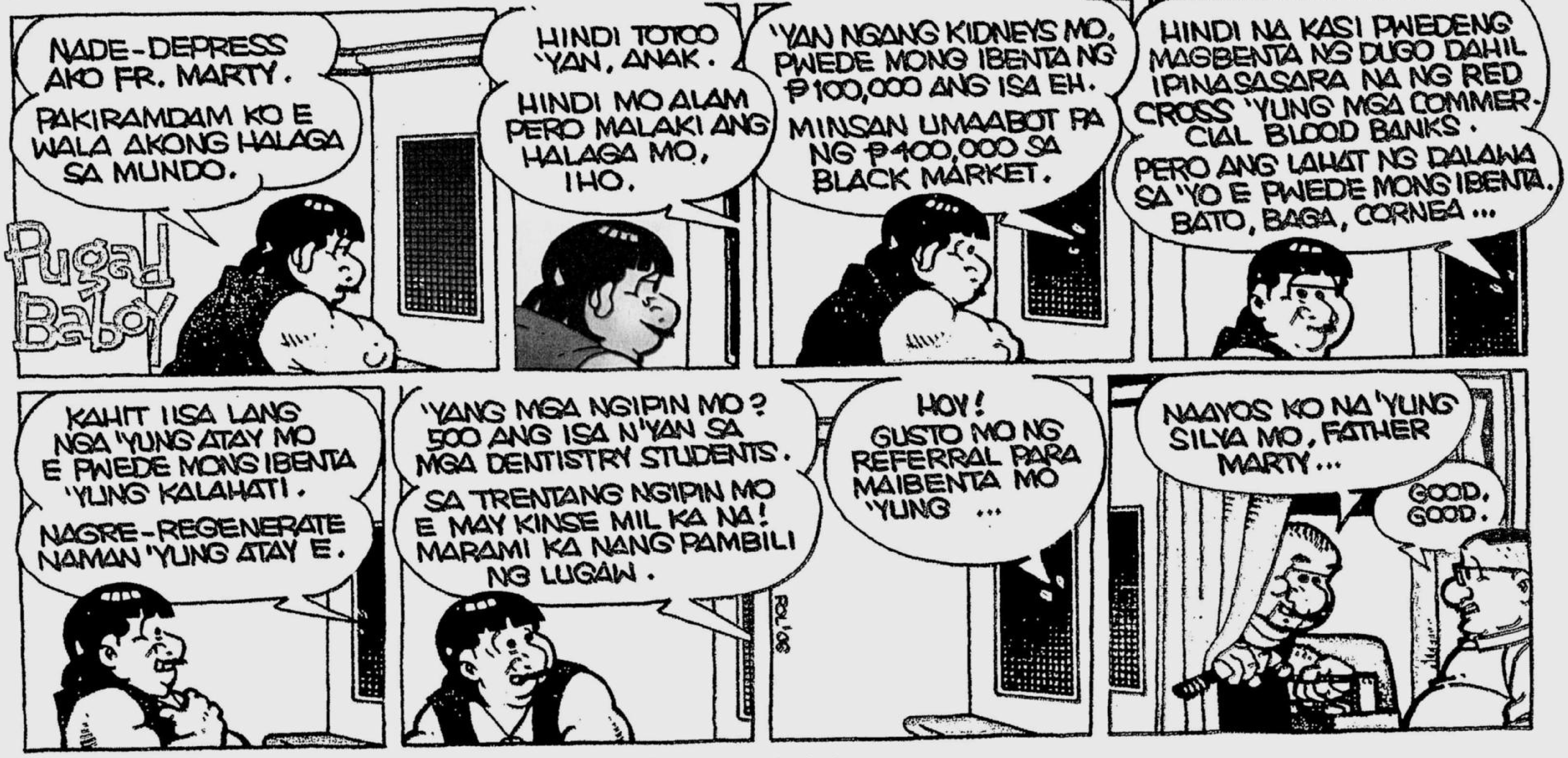
DRG!
THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US. I AM A GENERAL WHILE YOU, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, ARE A SOLDIER.
WHY SHOULD PEOPLE LIKE ME GET OUR HANDS DIRTY WHEN I CAN ORDER PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO DO IT FOR ME? SO NOW I AM FRESH WHILE YOU ARE SPENT.
PROTECT THE COMMANDER!
COMMANDER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LIGHTNING BOLT?
HFFF... HFFF... M-MY RIBS...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HIGH WIZARD? NO MORE SP FOR THE BIG SPELLS?
AMP!
WHO DARES DEFY VARGAS THE PALADIN?!
TO BE CONTINUED.

* This strip is a repeat of last week's issue because the writer/artists were unable to meet the deadline

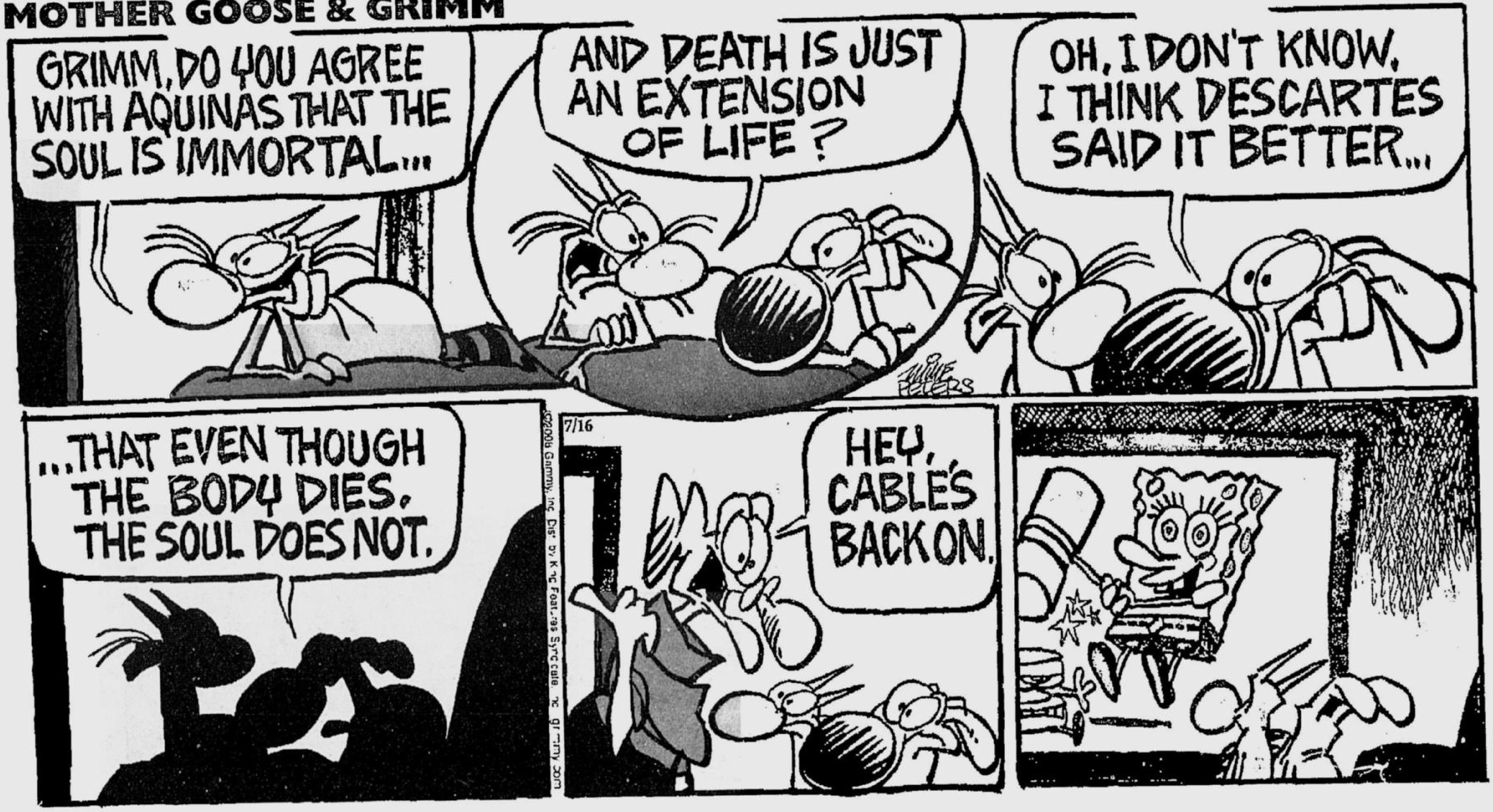
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
NADE-DEPRESS AKO FR. MARTY.
PAKIRAMDAM KO E WALA AKONG HALAGA SA MUNDO.
HINDI TOTOO 'YAN, ANAK.
HINDI MO ALAM PERO MALAKI ANG HALAGA MO, IHO.
'YAN NGANG KIDNEYS MO, PWEDE MONG IBENTA NG ₱100,000 ANG ISA EH.
MINSAN UMAABOT PA NG ₱400,000 SA BLACK MARKET.
HINDI NA KASI PWEDENG MAGBENTA NG DUGO DAHIL IPINASASARA NA NG RED CROSS 'YUNG MGA COMMERCIAL BLOOD BANKS.
PERO ANG LAHAT NG DALAWA SA 'YO E PWEDE MONG IBENTA. BATO, BAGA, CORNEA ...
KAHIT IISA LANG NGA 'YUNG ATAY MO E PWEDE MONG IBENTA 'YUNG KALAHATI.
NAGRE-REGENERATE NAMAN 'YUNG ATAY E.
'YANG MGA NGIPIN MO? 500 ANG ISA N'YAN SA MGA DENTISTRY STUDENTS.
SA TRENTANG NGIPIN MO E MAY KINSE MIL KA NA! MARAMI KA NANG PAMBILI NG LUGAW.
POL '06
HOY! GUSTO MO NG REFERRAL PARA MAIBENTA MO 'YUNG ...
NAAYOS KO NA 'YUNG SILYA MO, FATHER MARTY...
GOOD, GOOD.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, DO YOU AGREE WITH AQUINAS THAT THE SOUL IS IMMORTAL...
AND DEATH IS JUST AN EXTENSION OF LIFE?
OH, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK DESCARTES SAID IT BETTER...
MIKE PETERS
...THAT EVEN THOUGH THE BODY DIES, THE SOUL DOES NOT.
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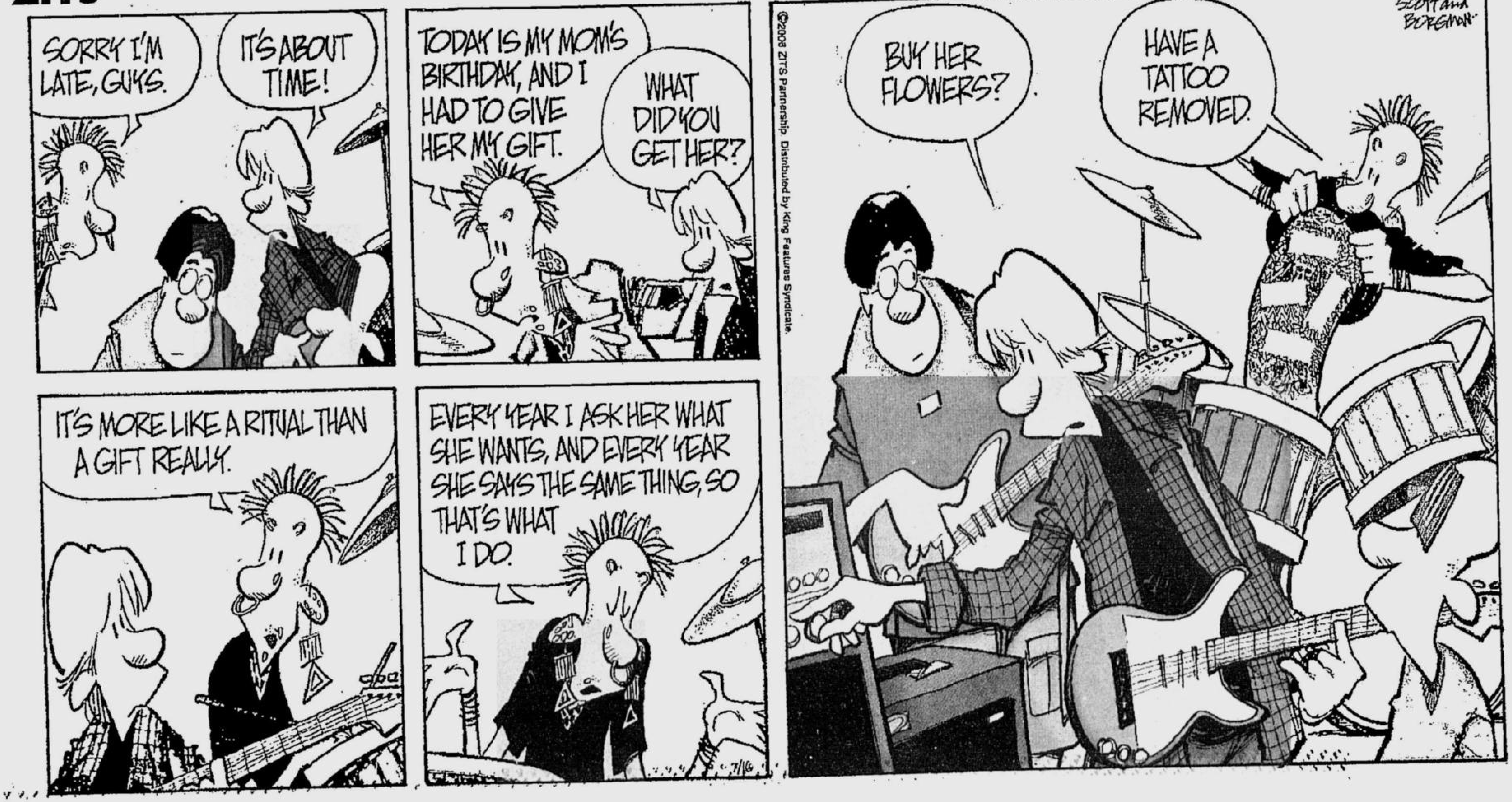
7/16
HEY, CABLE'S BACK ON.

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SORRY I'M LATE, GUYS.
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
TODAY IS MY MOM'S BIRTHDAY, AND I HAD TO GIVE HER MY GIFT.
WHAT DID YOU GET HER?
IT'S MORE LIKE A RITUAL THAN A GIFT REALLY.
EVERY YEAR I ASK HER WHAT SHE WANTS, AND EVERY YEAR SHE SAYS THE SAME THING, SO THAT'S WHAT I DO.
7/16
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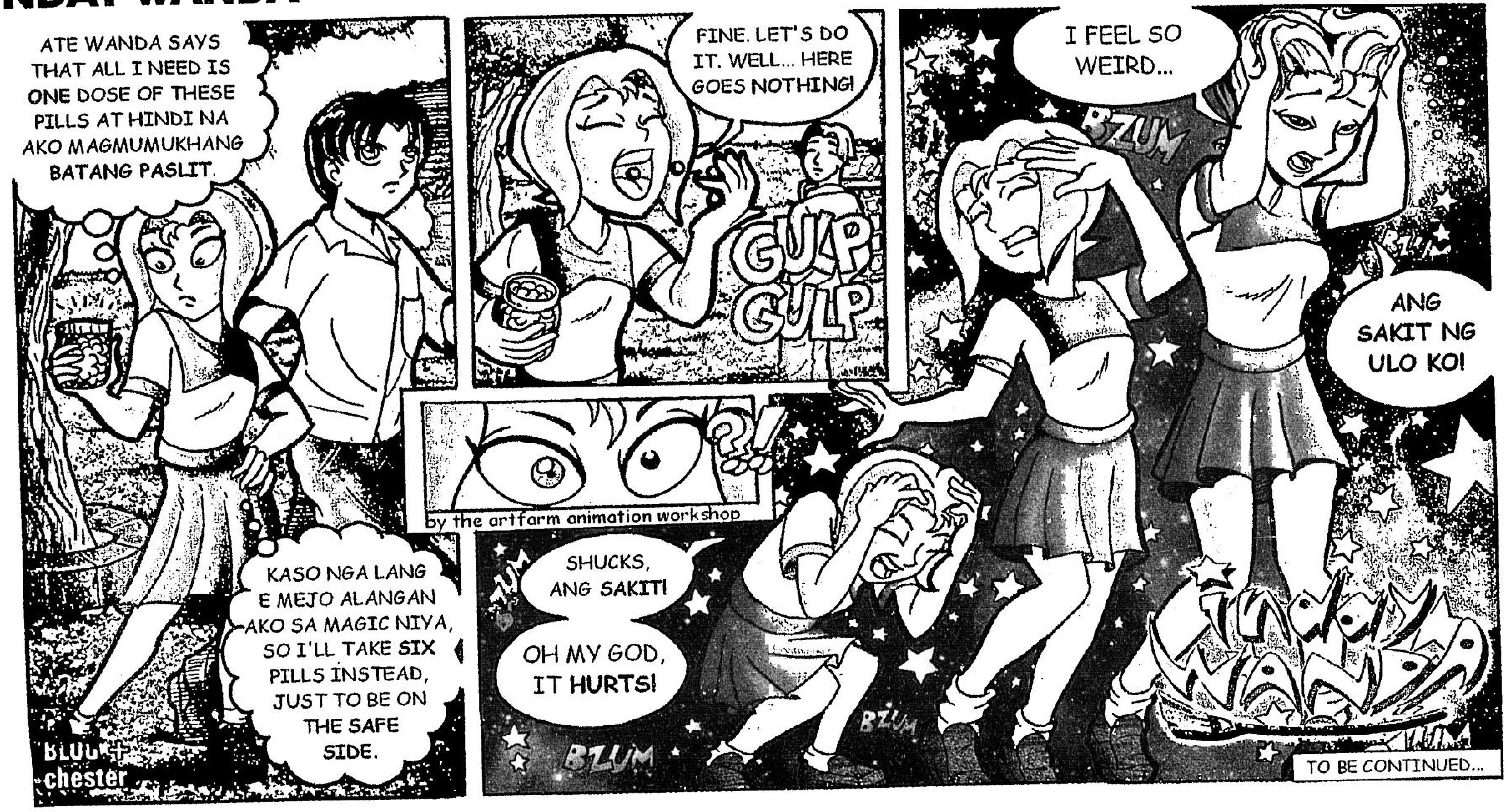
SCOTT and BORGMAN
BUY HER FLOWERS?
HAVE A TATTOO REMOVED.

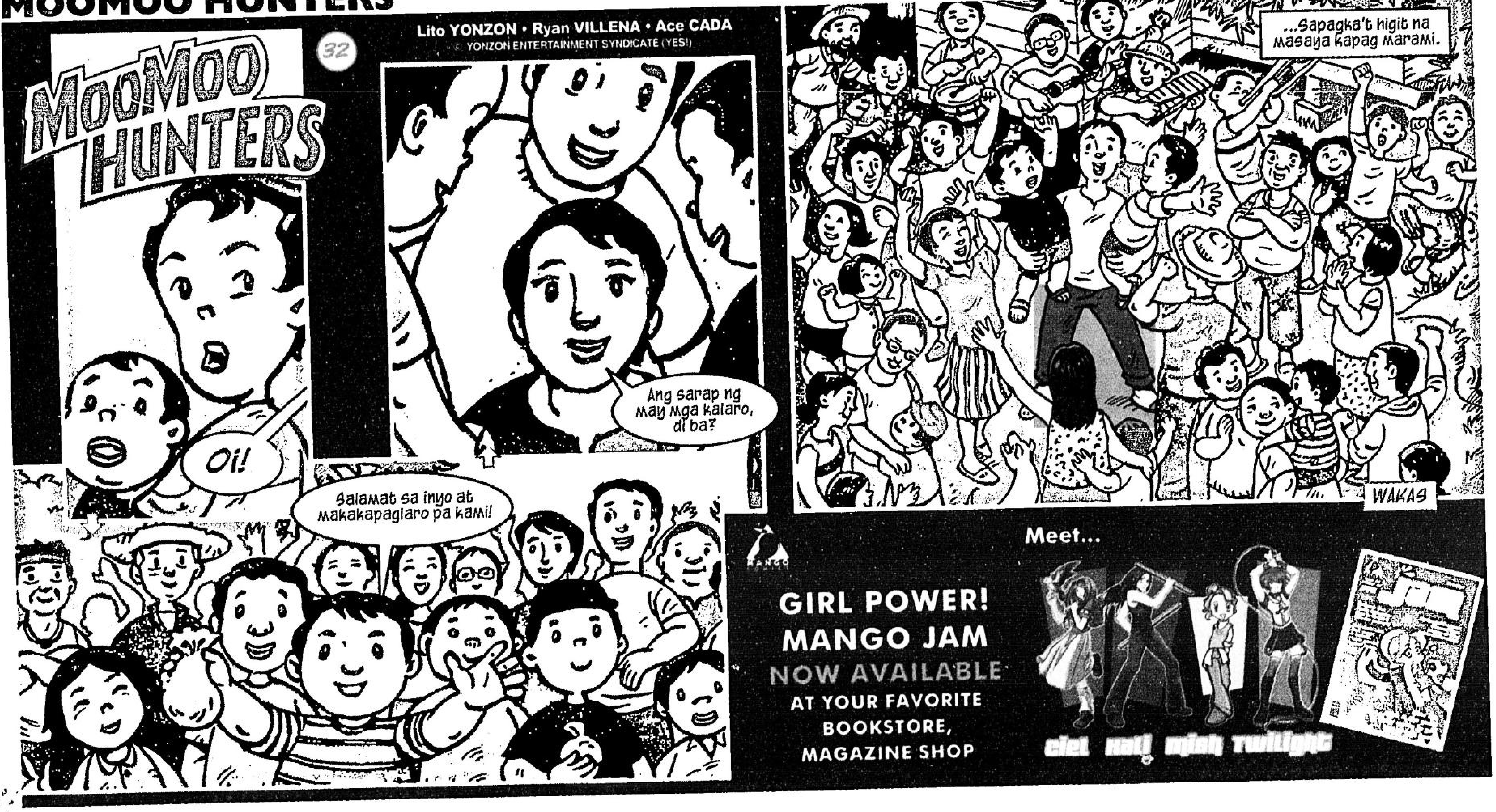
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


ATE WANDA SAYS THAT ALL I NEED IS ONE DOSE OF THESE PILLS AT HINDI NA AKO MAGMUMUKHANG BATANG PASLIT.
KASO NGA LANG E MEJO ALANGAN AKO SA MAGIC NIYA, SO I'LL TAKE SIX PILLS INSTEAD, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.
BLOG + chester
FINE. LET'S DO IT. WELL... HERE GOES NOTHING!
GULP! GULP
?!
by the artfarm animation workshop
SHUCKS, ANG SAKIT!
OH MY GOD, IT HURTS!
BZUM
BZUM
I FEEL SO WEIRD...
BZUM
ANG SAKIT NG ULO KO!
BZUM
TO BE CONTINUED...

MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS

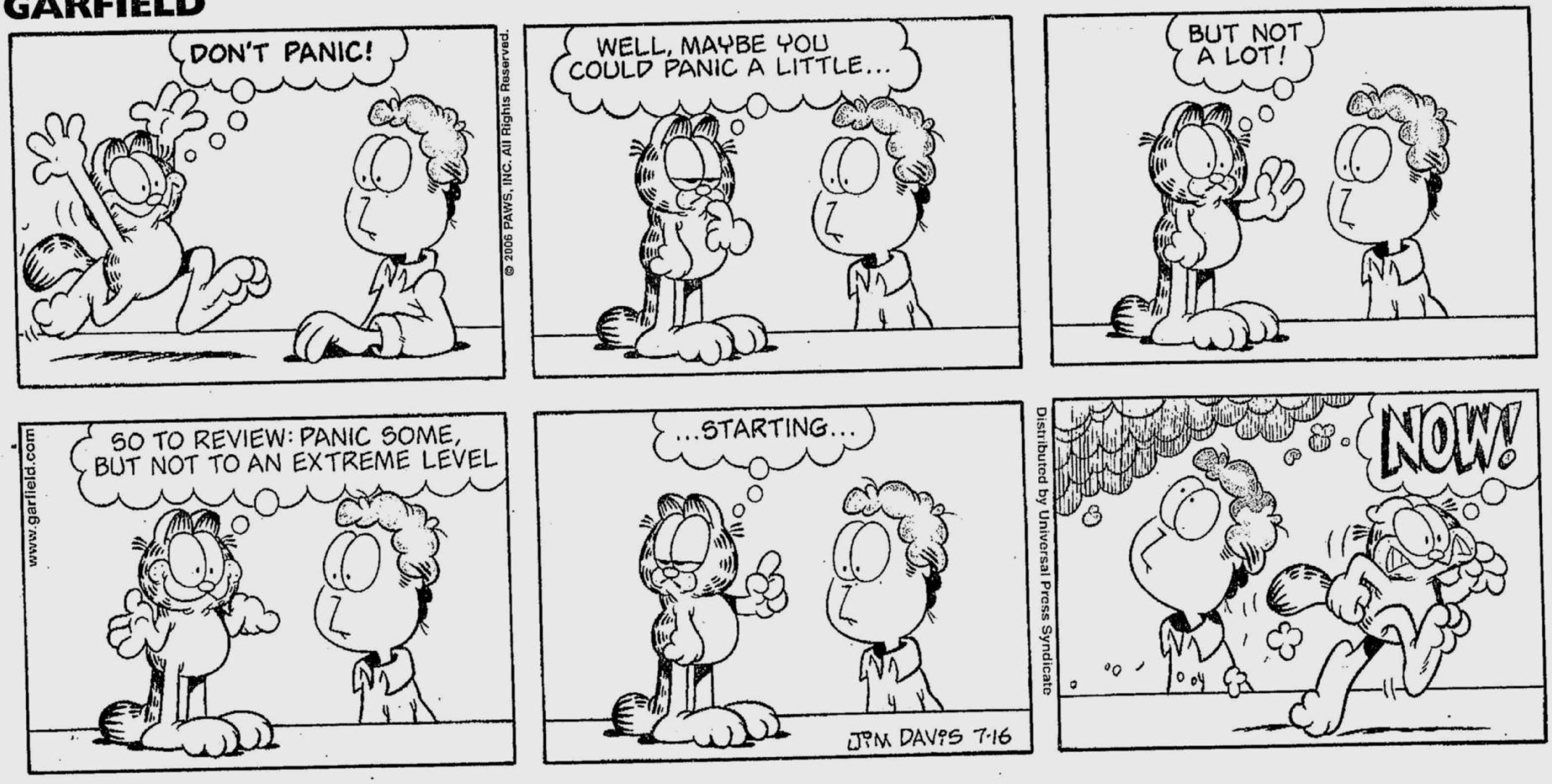

Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
MOOMOO HUNTERS
32
Oi!
Ang sarap ng may mga kalaro, di ba?
Salamat sa inyo at makakapaglaro pa kami!
...Sapagka't higit na masaya kapag marami.
WAKAS

GIRL POWER!
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

Meet...
ciel kali mish twilight

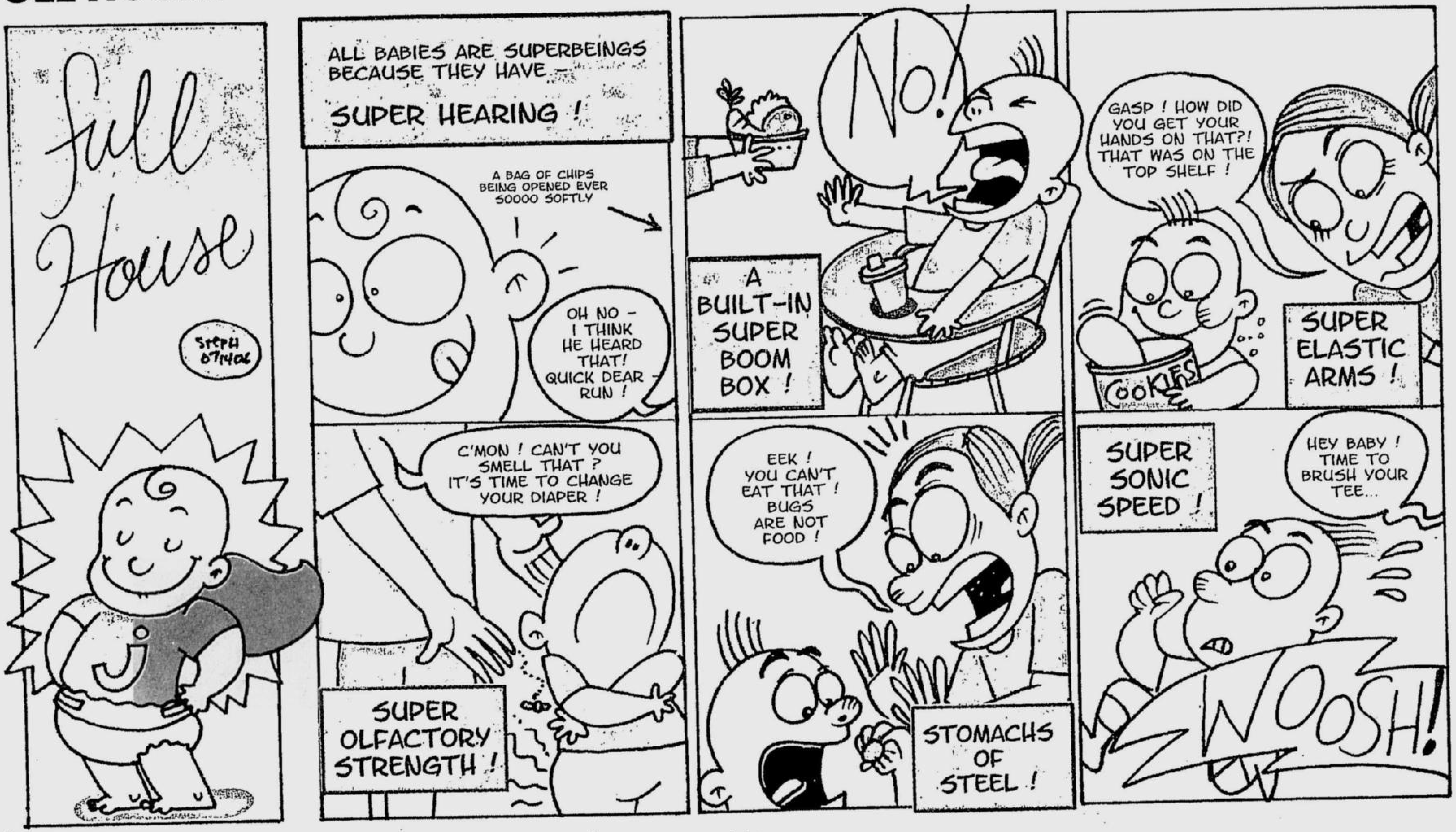
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


DON'T PANIC!
© 2006 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
WELL, MAYBE YOU COULD PANIC A LITTLE...
BUT NOT A LOT!
www.garfield.com
SO TO REVIEW: PANIC SOME, BUT NOT TO AN EXTREME LEVEL
...STARTING...
JIM DAVIS 7·16
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
NOW!

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


Full House
Steph 07/14/06
J
ALL BABIES ARE SUPERBEINGS BECAUSE THEY HAVE –
SUPER HEARING !
A BAG OF CHIPS BEING OPENED EVER SOOOO SOFTLY
OH NO – I THINK HE HEARD THAT! QUICK DEAR – RUN !
No!
A BUILT-IN SUPER BOOM BOX !
GASP ! HOW DID YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THAT?! THAT WAS ON THE TOP SHELF !
COOKIES
SUPER ELASTIC ARMS !
C'MON ! CAN'T YOU SMELL THAT ? IT'S TIME TO CHANGE YOUR DIAPER !
SUPER OLFACTORY STRENGTH !
EEK ! YOU CAN'T EAT THAT ! BUGS ARE NOT FOOD !
STOMACHS OF STEEL !
SUPER SONIC SPEED !
HEY BABY ! TIME TO BRUSH YOUR TEE...
WOOSH!

July 16, 2006
sundayINQUIRERmagazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

The mystery begins with his name— (not his real name)

stainless longganisa
bob ong

He's today the most unusual best-selling Filipino author you've never met. No phone interviews, photographs, personal appearances. Ever.

by Ruel S. De Vera
photo illustration by Lynett A Villariba

CONSIDER him the mass-market mystery man, a publishing phenomenon whose blockbuster book sales are equaled only by the anonymity he maintains. He is Bob Ong—not his real name—the most unusual best-selling Filipino author you've never met.

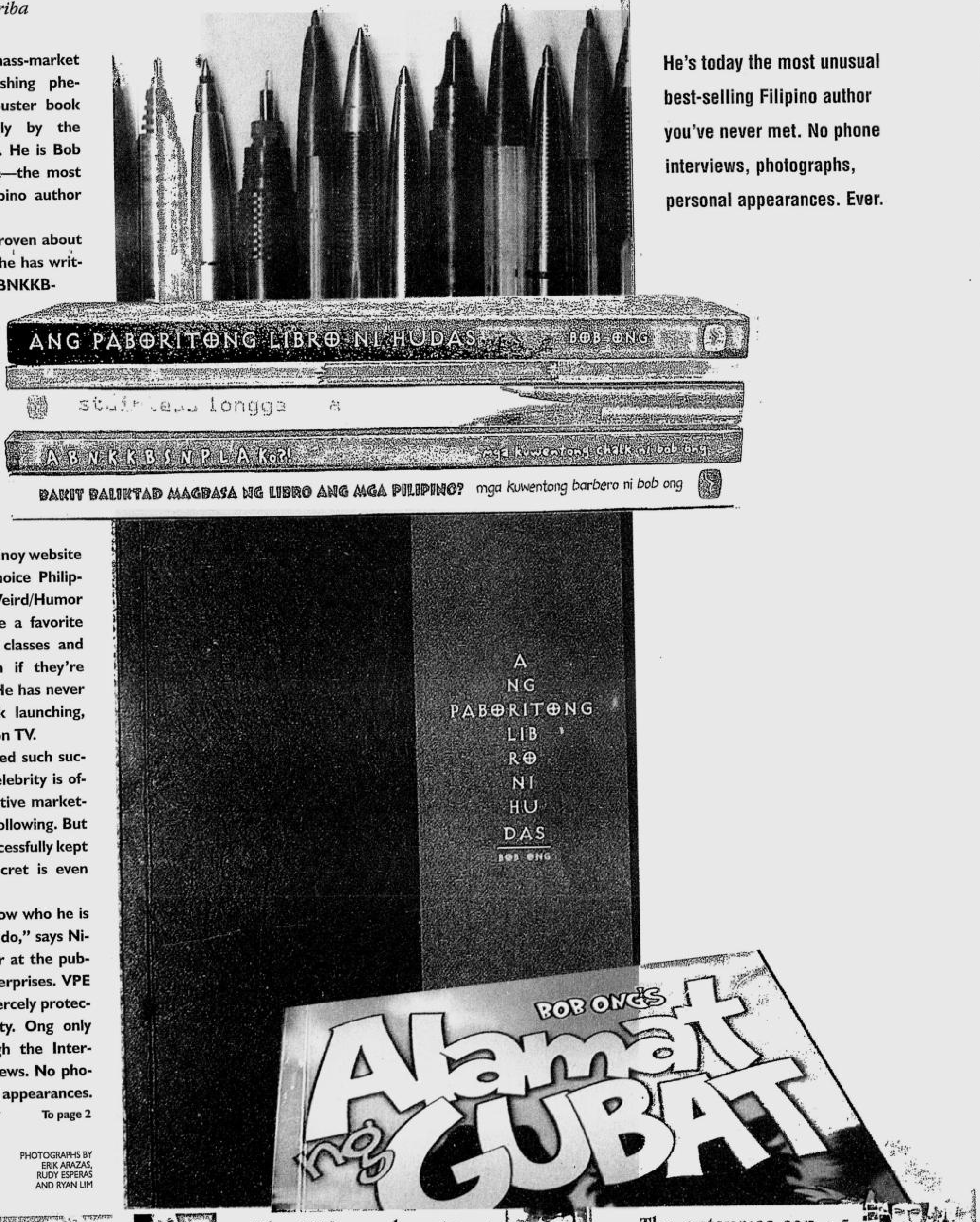
Here is what can be proven about the enigmatic Mr. Ong: he has written five books, "ABNKKBSNPLAko?!," "*Bakit Baliktad Magbasa ng Libro Ang Mga Pilipino?*," "*Ang Paboritong Libro ni Hudas*," "*Alamat ng Gubat*" and "Stainless Longganisa," all of which have a combined sales of almost a quarter million.

His defunct Bobong Pinoy website received a People's Choice Philippine Web Award for Weird/Humor in 1998. His books are a favorite among Filipinos of all classes and among students—even if they're not required reading. He has never appeared at any book launching, not even his own, nor on TV.

That Ong has achieved such success in an age when celebrity is often a requisite of effective marketing is indicative of his following. But the fact that he has successfully kept his true identity a secret is even more astounding.

"Even those who know who he is won't admit that they do," says Nida Gatus, Ong's editor at the publisher Visual Print Enterprises. VPE and Ong himself are fiercely protective of that anonymity. Ong only communicates through the Internet. No phone interviews. No photographs. No personal appearances. Ever.

To page 2


ANG PABORITONG LIBRO NI HUDAS
BOB ONG
stainless longganisa
ABNKKBSNPLAKo?!
mga kuwentong chalk ni bob ong
BAKIT BALIKTAD MAGBASA NG LIBRO ANG MGA PILIPINO?
mga kuwentong barbero ni bob ong
ANG PABORITONG LIBRO NI HUDAS
BOB ONG
BOB ONG'S
Alamat ng GUBAT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ERIK ARAZAS,
RUDY ESPERAS
AND RYAN LIM

The teacher as crusader, *p.3*

The CEO as advocate, *p.4*

The auteur as son, *p.5*

Bob Ong

...from page 1

At one time, it was rumored that award-winning poet Paolo Manalo is the real Bob Ong. The literary editor at the Philippines Free Press who teaches literature at the University of the Philippines denies this. "I'm flattered that people think I'm Bob Ong but I'm not him," he says.

Manalo, who actually ran a "Who is Bob Ong?" contest on his blog, offers his view on why Ong is so popular: "Bob Ong is able to articulate the concerns and attitudes of a generation of students who are aware of the very real and absurd contradictions in the world they live in. He writes with the same casual and ironic tone that made his writings on the old website accessible and popular to Filipino readers. The materials he used in his books are those familiar to this generation of Filipinos. One might even call them urban culture lore."

Writing and being

It could be Ong's conversational writing style, easygoing yet percussive, with moments of insightful realization. There's also humor and introspection with remembered details that lead one to believe that he holds the secret of life in the big city, be it in his essays ("ABa") or in his fiction ("*Alamat*"). It is ground-penetrating radar of common sense. That Ong derives his ideas from his life in a self-deprecating and thoughtful manner only means that the secret to Bob Ong's writing lies in Bob Ong's being.

Most important was Ong's choice to write in everyday Filipino. "Consider language as a tool," Ong explains over e-mail. "English would be a saw. Filipino, a knife. My aim is just to peel *singkamas* (turnip) for *merienda*. A second language can never replace the first."

Aside from Ong's own responses, the best information about Ong—or BO as he fondly refers to himself—can be found within the pages of his books.

Even at his tale's true beginning, it isn't a prototypical writer's story. Ong didn't grow up fancying himself a future author. In fact, he didn't enjoy writing as a child nor reading as much as would be expected. After a failed attempt at a college degree, he went on to complete a two-year course in a vocational school and another course in writing. Learning, though, is something he loved. Though not a stereotypical reader, he savored books and TV and found that his daily life gave way to pithy anecdotes brimming with perspective.

"Some of the stories in my books have been written as early as 1999," he explains. "I am my writing style. I don't write for decoders of treasure maps. I'm an equal-opportunity writer who wants to be read by anyone who can."

Ong worked as a web developer and a teacher. And he wrote. His distinctive prose pieces began to be published online, and he put together the first crucial piece in the puzzle: the award-winning Bobong Pinoy website. "I created BP because I needed it for my job," Ong says. "The twist: although impressed, my boss would've fired me had he known I was the one behind it."

In the process of his getting seriously into writing, Ong's alter-ego was born. He didn't coin the name. "Someone else did," he says. "That somebody mistook me online for someone by that name. It was a light bulb moment days after when I noticed that the name was actually in 'BobOng Pinoy.' No tough decisions there." Through his site, Ong gathered fans quickly.

Amusing reading

Gatus, who had just joined Visual Print Enterprises in 1999 as an administrative manager, was one of those fans. "It wasn't the usual amusing reading and you're done with it," she says. "You just have to read it again and again, because each time is a different experience." VPE was a commercial press that was interested in publishing its own titles and Gatus thought Ong's humorous and insightful pieces were perfect for the project. "I come from the consumer side," she says. "I feel obliged to share them with other people, because they're really good. It's such a waste to keep them to myself."

She had read in one of Ong's monthly mailing list materials that he was interested in putting together a book. The two touched base in 2000. In 2001, "ABa" came out—to supernatural results. The latest figures available to Gatus pegs Ong's current sales at 215,500 books. Gatus says that not only have students picked up Ong's books on their own, but teachers have used them in classes; the books have been mined for book reports, theses and seminars. "We've even been asked to supply books to a couple of churches to sell in their bookstores," Gatus adds.

Additionally, Ong decided that all the proceeds of the two books would go to chosen charities, something he would like to continue. "It is only through charity that I can tell myself that my work matters," he says. "It protects me from writing purely for profit."

RUDY ESPERAS

Gatekeeper: Nida Gatus helped bring Bob Ong's writing from the Net to the page

And through all that, Ong steadfastly refused interview requests as well as offers to speak at graduations. At the start, it proved to be a challenge for VPE in terms of marketing his books. "The first and only time we thought of the need to market him was during the release of 'ABa,' since he was unknown beyond the Net," Gatus explains. "But we had his online followers to rely on. It was slow at first, but once 'ABa' became known, even non-netizens were already reading Bob Ong."

New books

Now, the books basically market themselves. Gatus says Ong simply announces that he has a new book coming out in a few months, "and fans would already be visiting bookstores and pestering the clerks, way before the books go to press." Now, the bookstores themselves call up VPE to verify the rumors of a new BO book in the pipeline. If anything, the prospects of new BO books, unknown identity and all, are better than they ever have been.

Meanwhile, Ong is doing what many think isn't possible in the Philippines: he is living off his writing full-time. Aside from the leap of faith it required, Ong says that writing full-time "depends on what kind of life you want for yourself. Some people don't mind extreme living conditions so long as they're free to do the things they love doing the most. I am only writing full-time now because it's either that or I keep an 8-to-5 job and quit writing altogether."

And that is one thing Ong certainly does not want to do. He likes that people, particularly students, are reading his books. "It wasn't intentional but I feel proud of it," Ong says. "Converting non-book readers from all walks of life is a glorious feat." He is abashed and amazed by his success and continues to write about the joy of writing.

In that sense, "Stainless," whose cover is adorned by a chain of pens, is a love letter to Ong's affection for writing. This is, after all, a book that is dedicated to the trees that surrendered their lives for the book to be published. "It's the book that talks about the other four and wraps everything up," Ong explains. "It is no more a book on writing as it is a book on dreams and aspirations." Among his shelf of books, "Stainless" stands out as being the most personal yet.

Personal and private

Ong likes to say that, aside from very detailed personal information everyone wants to keep private, everything about him can be found in the books. He says that he is nothing like people think he is. "Quiet and oftentimes boring," he says by way of description. "You wouldn't see the Bob Ong you wish to meet. Other than stories that tend to be wordy when told in person, I've got no other entertaining qualities."

Gatus adds that Ong "knows what he wants, and is very much in charge of his life. He is very meticulous." He savors surfing the Net and loves music, and thus spends his time burning CDs containing all sorts of mixes.

One could also consider thinking up new ideas as being another Ong passion. He's constantly trying to come up with different ways of doing things. Gatus says that the topsy-turvy chapters of "*Bakit*" were completely Ong's idea.

"Funny, because I tried that on the school paper before and our adviser just shook his head and said no way," he says.

Writing is what continues to fuel Ong's days. "You read, you watch, you observe, you think, you feel—you can't help it," he says. "Insight comes from all these. From all these, you write."

The interest regarding his real identity bewilders Ong. "Some readers won't give up the idea that I might actually be a group of people and that my personal anecdotes are fictitious," he says. "I made references to real people, places and events. I've already met some of my readers. There's nothing mythical about me."

Yet Manalo says that the mysterious duality of Ong's identity has its own charm: "I'm glad that we have writers who maintain a secret identity and enjoy a fan following. Many of the writers of Tagalog romances hide under pseudonyms." Further, Manalo points out even if his readers don't really know who he is, they buy his books anyway. "Maybe this means his identity is not important, it is his writing that matters."

Possible rewards

The possible rewards of fame have crossed Ong's mind. "Of course, you also do wonder at times how it feels to be a rock star," he says. "But I look at fame and success as Frodo's ring, it's not for everyone."

Instead, Ong devotes himself to remaining productive, hopefully even writing two books a year instead of one. Right now, he is working on this year's book, a book of "fiction regarding an issue I feel most strongly about." If you want to know what that issue is, you're going to have to wait for the book just like the rest of Ong's legionnaires.

There are several reasons why Ong elected to maintain his secret identity, but perhaps the most essential is that he wants to keep doing what he does the way he wants to. It's continuing to create on his own terms. "I don't cope well with big changes," Bob Ong writes. "It's just not for me. Fame comes with a price I'm not willing to pay. I just want to write while living the average Filipino life. I don't want to be robbed of that."

For more about Bob Ong, log on to www.visprint.net or e-mail Ong himself at bobongpinoy@gmail.com.

RUDY ESPERAS

Alamat ng Gubat
Bakit Baliktad Magbasa ng Libro ang mga Pilipino?

Bestselling bunch: Bob Ong's books have gathered a rabid following

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Dalawang Tula ni Reuel Molina Aguila

Haibun #1: Sa Mga Kalye ng Lunsod

Dumarating sila kapag nagdidilim na; lipakin at nanlilimahid,
mga supling ng bumabagsak na ekonomiya, kasinungalinga't
pandaraya, at kawalang pag-asa. Wala. Wala silang 12 taong gulang, marahil.

Yaman ay isang karton
Sa lamig ngayong gabi
Bingi sa ingay-kalye
Bukas dapat bumangon

Sa pagbubukang-liwayway ay wala na sila. Saan nagpunta? Ako?
Magtatrabaho pa.

Haibun #2: Loob at Labas ng Bayan

Sa sariling bayan, mahigpit siyang tinuruan. Wag magkakamay.
Wag magtitinidor sa kanan. Wag magkukutsara sa kaliwa.
Wag yumukod sa pagsubo. Wag magmadali sa pagkain.
Wag lumikha ng ingay sa paghigop. Wag ngumasab sa pagnguya.
Wag dumighay. At marami pang wag. At sinunod niya ang lahat
upang maging katanggap-tanggap sa lahat; gustuhin man niyang
magkamay at himurin ang huling lasa ng ulam na nangungunyapit
sa kanyang mga daliri't palad. Ngunit siya pa ri'y inusig… sa ibang
bayang nagtatakda na iisa lamang ang tamang paraan ng pagkain.

Balut at suman
Paano lalantakan
E, pansit-habhab?

Movers & Shakers

text and photographs
by Katherine Jack

She may be based in the United States, but Ester Timbancaya-Elphick has found a way to save the native language of the small remote island of Cuyo in Palawan. By working on the first ever comprehensive bilingual dictionary of the Cuyonon language, she hopes to save both her native tongue and culture from dying out.

She's saving her native tongue from across foreign shores

I FIRST came across Ester Timbancaya-Elphick when she performed a Cuyonon song at the Baragatan festival in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, the city where she grew up. We later discussed her extraordinary life and the Cuyonon Culture and Language Project (CLCP) which she has founded.

At 69, Ester is in the midst of an ambitious project: to compile the first comprehensive bilingual dictionary of the Cuyonon language, the mother tongue of some 29,000 inhabitants of Cuyo, a remote island in the Sulu Sea northeast of mainland Palawan.

Both the Cuyonon language and culture are endangered, according to Ester, a native of Cuyo. "Although it may seem robust, the language is increasingly feeling pressure from Tagalog and from English. Tagalog is enforced in schools and has reached such a status that people from other cultures in Palawan have been made to feel that their languages are inferior."

Cuyonon conversation

Through her conversations with Cuyonons in Puerto Princesa, Ester has found that many are no longer speaking their native tongue in their homes. "Instead they speak Tagalog to their children, even if their Tagalog is not that good."

This is worrying since, according to the Foundation for Endangered Languages, when traditional language transmission breaks down, there is a large loss of inherited knowledge. Or, as Ester puts it, "when a language dies, a whole culture dies with it."

Ester was born in Cuyo but her family soon moved to mainland Palawan when her parents were assigned as school teachers in Puerto Princesa, the capital city. During the War, her father joined the guerrilla forces fighting the Japanese, and Ester returned with the rest of the family to the relative safety of Cuyo. She was 6 at the time, but has clear memories of school on the beach where her mother taught Ester and her two brothers how to write.

"We wrote our first letters on banana leaf scrolls; the backs of the leaves are frosty so you can write on them with a stick. The only disappointment is that the next day, they are wilted," she recounts.

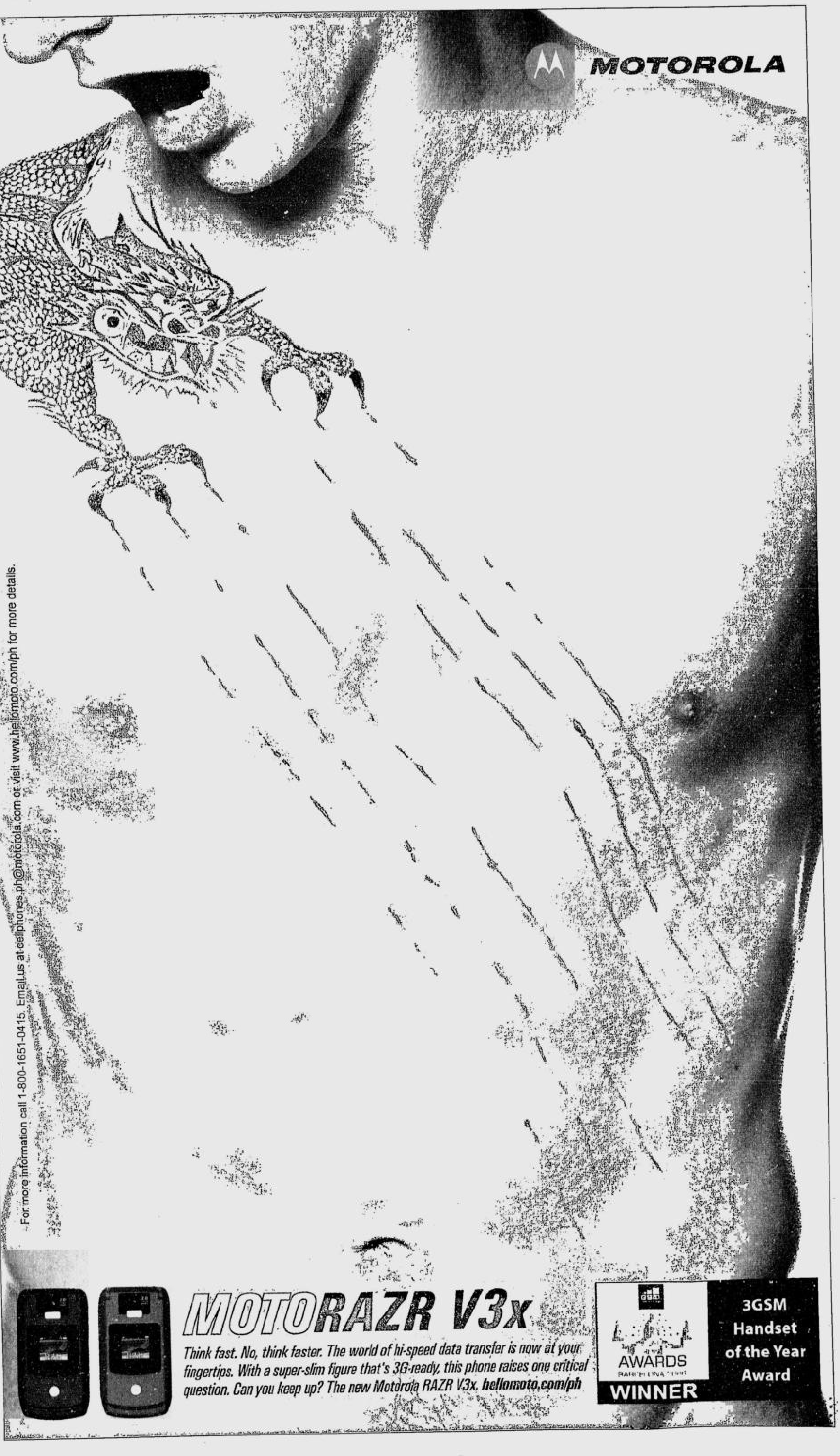
Ester was a bright student and, in later years, went on to receive scholarships to Silliman University, Dumaguete and Stanford University in the United States. She studied hard and, after finishing her Masters Degree in Education at Stanford, took up a course in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). It was here that she met an academic who sparked her interest in preserving her native language.

Strange language

"One of my professors somehow found out that I spoke a 'strange language' which he had never heard of before, so he persuaded me to stay an extra semester so I could take up an MA in Linguistics."

The professor then started to learn Cuyonon himself and published an article about it in an academic journal. Encouraged by this but not quite knowing where to start, Ester began compiling a list of Cuyonon words. "I was starting from scratch, absolutely from zero, so I just began where I was—I translated the word for 'table' into English. By the time I had finished my MA, I had quite a corpus of words."

To page 4



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AWARDS
WINNER
3GSM Handset of the Year Award

by Tina Arceo-Dumlao
photographs by Rudy Esperas

'Believe in your country; start a business,' says this young CEO

HE SUREST way to annoy Jose Ma. Concepcion III, chief executive officer of food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp., is to whine about how bad things are in the Philippines.

For Concepcion, those who merely complain without lifting a finger to make the country a better place should just pack their bags and find their fortunes abroad. "If you don't believe (in the Philippines), just leave," advises this presidential consultant for entrepreneurship

For those who'd rather stay, Concepcion offers a sure way to improve their lot in life: become an entrepreneur and run your own business. "If you want to create more jobs, create entrepreneurs because they will not only help themselves but will also give jobs to at least three other people," he explains.

Concepcion, 48, believes that there is an entrepreneur in every Filipino that has been repressed by generations of being conditioned to pursue careers in big corporations.

Fortunately, the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE), which he recently set up with some of the country's top entrepreneurs as incorporators, is about to change that mindset.

Among the center's incorporators are Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year winners Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee and Socorro Ramos of National Book Store, Splash Corp. founder Rolando Hortaleza, SM group's Harley Sy and GMA Network CEO Felipe Gozon.

The idea is to get these top entrepreneurs to become living and breathing inspirations and mentors to others who want to follow in their footsteps. Concepcion is also getting their help to encourage academic institutions to include entrepreneurship subjects in the curriculum and make college students realize the potential in striking out on their own.

"We want to bring about more optimism into this country," Concepcion says. "We want to shock the system." He stresses that entrepreneurship starts with believing in your country, in yourself and in your idea. "This will give you a stronger sense of purpose and responsibility to see (your business) through," he says. "This belief should inspire and infect others with the same optimism and determination. This is the essence of the movement," adds this graduate of business management from De La Salle University.

His message seems to be filtering through, judging by the unexpectedly huge numbers of visitors to the first Go Negosyo entrepreneurship summit last year, which was quickly followed by a Micronegosyo summit for families of the Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel.

Encouraged by the warm response, PCE is putting together an IT Technonegosyo, an Agrinegosyo in October and an OFW Micronegosyo summit in December. Concepcion is also looking at organizing an entrepreneurship meeting that will center on tourism. He then intends to bring the Go Negosyo entrepreneurship meets to the provinces.

"I was surprised at the number of entrepreneurs who were willing to talk and share lessons learned in their success, with budding entrepreneurs," Concepcion says. "It is helping create that excitement that we all want, that business fervor."

Some 20 years ago, Jose Ma. Concepcion III picked up bottom dwellers Selecta and Cosmos and pulled them up to become leading brands. These days, he's creating excitement, that business fervor for entrepreneurs

Keeping that excitement at fever pitch takes a lot of Concepcion's time but he says he doesn't mind, because he is committed to seeing his vision through despite the darker motives that others have attributed to him. Some people have asked him point blank if he harbors any political ambition, and if the movement directly benefits RFM.

He denies both. "I have no plans of running for office. I am doing this because it is something I truly enjoy," Concepcion says.

Social awareness is a legacy that this firstborn of eight siblings got from his father,. industrialist Jose Concepcion Jr., who was Trade Secretary under former President Corazon Aquino, and who played a crucial part in bringing about the 1986 Edsa People Power revolt as chair of the National Movement for Free Elections.

Says the younger Concepcion: "I never thought of doing what my father has done. It's not my cup of tea. But entrepreneurship is, because it is not far from who I am and what I do."

Concepcion was just 16 when he put up his first business—a popcorn and cotton candy stand—that he ran with his high school sweetheart and now wife, Marissa Orosa, with whom he has four daughters.

At his father's request, he joined the family business and rose to prominence in the late 1980s when he diversified RFM Corp. from its flour-and-meat base, into a food and beverage conglomerate with the acquisition of what many had thought were moribund Filipino brands Selecta and Cosmos.

Market observers had thought that the younger Concepcion was crazy and had no hope of turning the brands around. Selecta, after all, had only one percent of the market that had Magnolia Ice Cream at the top.

Cosmos, on the other hand, dwelled at the bottom of the rankings in the soft drinks sector dominated by Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

But through bold marketing and branding campaigns, Selecta became the market leader within six years, while Cosmos dislodged Pepsi and became number two in the local soft drinks market.

RFM later sold Cosmos to the Coca-Cola group at a 7,000-percent premium over its original acquisition price 12 years before. RFM has also joined hands with Unilever to take Selecta to the next level.

Concepcion has also supervised RFM's entry into new businesses: milk and juices (Selecta, Sunkist), high-rise residential tower development (Philtown) and microelectronics (PSI Technologies).

Sharing his own lessons of success, says Concepcion, is his way of giving back, and is a means as well of keeping the spirit of entrepreneurship alive even in a big corporation such as RFM.

"For a 48-year-old company like RFM to continue to grow and survive, we have to think like entrepreneurs, and that means being able to grab at new opportunities and take calculated risks," he says.

Concepcion adds that being with the young who are eager to start their own businesses inspires him to continue reaching out for that next big idea for RFM. "I am really a marketing guy who knows a bit about finance. I am not really into operations. It bores me," he reveals.

With the day-to-day operations of RFM in the hands of a crew of competent senior managets, Concepcion's schedule becomes flexible enough for him to do his job well as presidential consultant for entrepreneurship. He couldn't be happier, he says.

She's saving

...from page 3

It was also at UCLA that Ester met her future husband, Richard Hall Elphick, an English Canadian from Toronto. On completing her Masters, she did not return to the Philippines as planned but stayed with him in the States where she continued her studies in Linguistics and became Head of ESL at an adult education center for immigrants.

Now retired from her full-time job, Ester is determined to use the skills that she had learned throughout her career to help prevent her native culture from disappearing. "After all," she says, "what is academic study without service?"

Cuyonon is and—despite the wide variety of people from other cultures who now live in Palawan—remains the most widely spoken language in the island. But the pressure to speak mainstream Tagalog and English is slowly changing that.

Evolving over time

Ester is not opposed to change and will be the first to point out that it is natural for a living language to evolve over time. "Remember that language first and foremost is a tool for communication and cannot be static. It has to change according to the needs of the people who use it," she says. However, she wants to provide enough documentation of the Cuyonon culture to ensure that it does not disappear without a trace.

Cuyonon is principally an unwritten language, with the only substantial written heritage being a translation of the New Testament. So Ester's first task was to make a standard writing system for Cuyonon because, as she describes it, "without written texts, most of the cultural heritage and history of Cuyo will be lost." She is now using this writing system to transcribe the audio tapes which have been collected by a team of dedicated researchers in Palawan. By the end of September or October, they hope to have finished collecting and transcribing more than three million words. Making a dictionary is a long process and it will take a year or more to analyze the texts and at least four or five years to complete it.

In the meantime, the CLCP team will teach Cuyonons to read and write in their own language. They will also transcribe stories that have been passed down orally through generations and will film traditional events and festivities.

12 languages

To do this, Ester makes periodic trips to the Philippines from her home base in Connecticut where she lives with her husband. Her son and daughter grew up in a Canadian, Filipino and American multi-cultural setting. Among them they speak at least 12 different languages. Ester is the only Cuyonon speaker in the house but her children are quite familiar with the music, dance, cuisine and customs of their mother's native island. They enjoy their trips to the Philippines and blend easily with their Filipino relatives.

Ester's husband, Richard, also an academic, is treasurer of the CLCP and sits on the board of directors. He gives his wife support in many different ways. "Without his support and total commitment to this project, I would not have undertaken this difficult and all-consuming task. He continues to inspire me each day to go on and fulfill our mission," says Ester.

Ester works from home and typically spends between four and eight hours a day on the Cuyonon project, depending on her energy level and the flexibility of her schedule. She always finds time for afternoon tea though which is an important time for everyone in the household. It gives them a chance to relax and share the activities and events of the day. Ester is eager to get on with her work and see the project through. "For me, there isn't enough time to process all the materials we have collected so far. Modern technology helps to shorten every stage of the project but still there isn't enough time," she sighs.

Her work is not easy—travelling in Cuyo and throughout Palawan is challenging to say the least, especially during the rainy season. It can

The Reel Life

by Ross Harper-Alonso

He has the making of an 'indio internacional' with a deep sense of roots

His movie about being a common man in colonial times has won Raya Martin international honors. But '*Indio Nacional*' could easily be a mirror to his life, reveals this confessed spoiled brat who says he had only wanted to impress his father

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TALKING to young filmmaker Raya Martin, one wonders if it's rambunctious intelligence and smugness one sees, or a man child adamantly keeping his eyes shut, afraid to be shaken from a blissful dream. He can be forgiven both; after all, how many other filmmakers have gotten so far so fast?

There's that prestigious award for Best Feature at the Pesaro Filmfest in Italy, and a filmmaking residency at the Festival du Cannes' Cinefondation, that makes him the first Filipino to be admitted into the "Formula One of Almost-There-Filmmakers."

Common life

Amid other successful screenings at international film festivals, Martin recently screened "*Indio Nacional*," a full length film set in the 1890s that follows the life of an *indio*, the common man during colonial times and the brewing revolution against Spain.

The premier screening was held on the same day the Philippines celebrated its 108th year of independence. The audience sat quietly, their cell phones silent for 96 minutes, mesmerized by the black and white silent film unfolding before them. Only the moving piano pieces that Rudolf Pelaez Golez played from a dimly lit corner by the stage filled the SRO theater.

Explains Martin about his work: "'*Indio Nacional*' evolved from '*Maicling Pelicula Nang Ysang Indio Nacional*,' a period film I shot for my thesis film cum feature attempt." Tikoy Aguiluz, festival director of Cinemanila, had suggested that he apply for Festival du Cannes' Cinefondation. "He believed it would be beneficial that I finish such an ambitious project under the best of conditions and facilities. I knew it was a long shot but worth a try."

After a few months, Martin received news that he was shortlisted together with 11 other finalists, including filmmakers from Australia, Argentina, Poland and South Korea. He was flown to Paris, all expenses paid by Cinefondation, for the final interview.

Informal interview

"I was the last to be interviewed a day after I arrived," he recalls. "The informal interview with a jury of around ten filmmakers, producers and the Foundation's director, George Goldstern, was one of the most nerve-wracking experiences I ever had in my life. Here I was, talking about my approach to filmmaking to producers and distributors of movies that I knew only from pirated DVDs!"

Goldstern had promised to call the applicants later in the evening for the results. "The nature of waiting is a cruel joke," Martin says, shaking his head. "We could see each other from our hotel balconies, each one waiting with somber looks. One by one heads disappeared as phones rang. When George called, he told me not to worry and a week later, they handed me the official letter of selection instead of mailing it to Manila."

While still a UP film student, Martin's amazing talent to sift through old rubble had surfaced in a group project. "*Bakasyon*" was a short film about a young girl left in the care of her grandmother in the province. The story becomes a suspenseful atmospheric piece about the legend of the *manananggal*, a flying witch whose body divides at the waist. The film was submitted to the Cinemanila film festival in the hopes of getting it screened and ended up winning the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema.

"My nanny's endless stories about the province must have intrigued me enough to do this film, but my filmmaking origins came from the love-hate relationship I had with my father," shares Martin. "I wanted to impress my father who had been concentrating on my elder brother, Mayo Uno, now a writer based in Singapore, and my only sister, Tala, an early education teacher. Although I was a spoiled brat used to getting my way with everyone, I must have wanted to prove something to him in a field he secretly enjoyed as well. In short, we found a common ground."

Digital whim

Martin's next film, which took him a year to edit, was "*Ang Isla sa Dulo ng Mundo*."

"In the summer after my sophomore year, I went to Batanes on a whim armed with the digital video camera that my parents had given me when I graduated from high school. My father was the first to see the finished work and told me it was strange. He didn't think anyone would be able to relate to its slow and quiet style. However, it was also my father who texted every single person in his phonebook when the film won Best Documentary at the .MOV Digital International Film Festival 2005," Martin recalls, laughing at the memory.

Martin's father is Perfecto "Boy" Martin, a University of the Philippines student who dropped out of school for some time, to become a fulltime activist in the early

To page 7

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also be hard to find native speakers who are willing to be taped voluntarily. Ester says of her team "I could not have even begun this project if I did not have the support that I do. I have an advisory panel of seven distinguished Cuyonons, a team of able researchers taping Cuyonon speech in Palawan and generous sponsors in the United States." The reaction of the local government has been very encouraging as well, with Ester constantly being invited to take part in a number of traditional celebrations.

Being immersed in Cuyonon culture is certainly one of the best way for Ester to absorb, document and share what she fears might soon be overtaken by an increasingly homogenized milieu. It is a big task but, enabled by her training in Linguistics and Education and driven by a passion for her native language, she is confident of fulfilling it. "It is a daunting and formidable undertaking, but I am totally committed to it," she vows. Q

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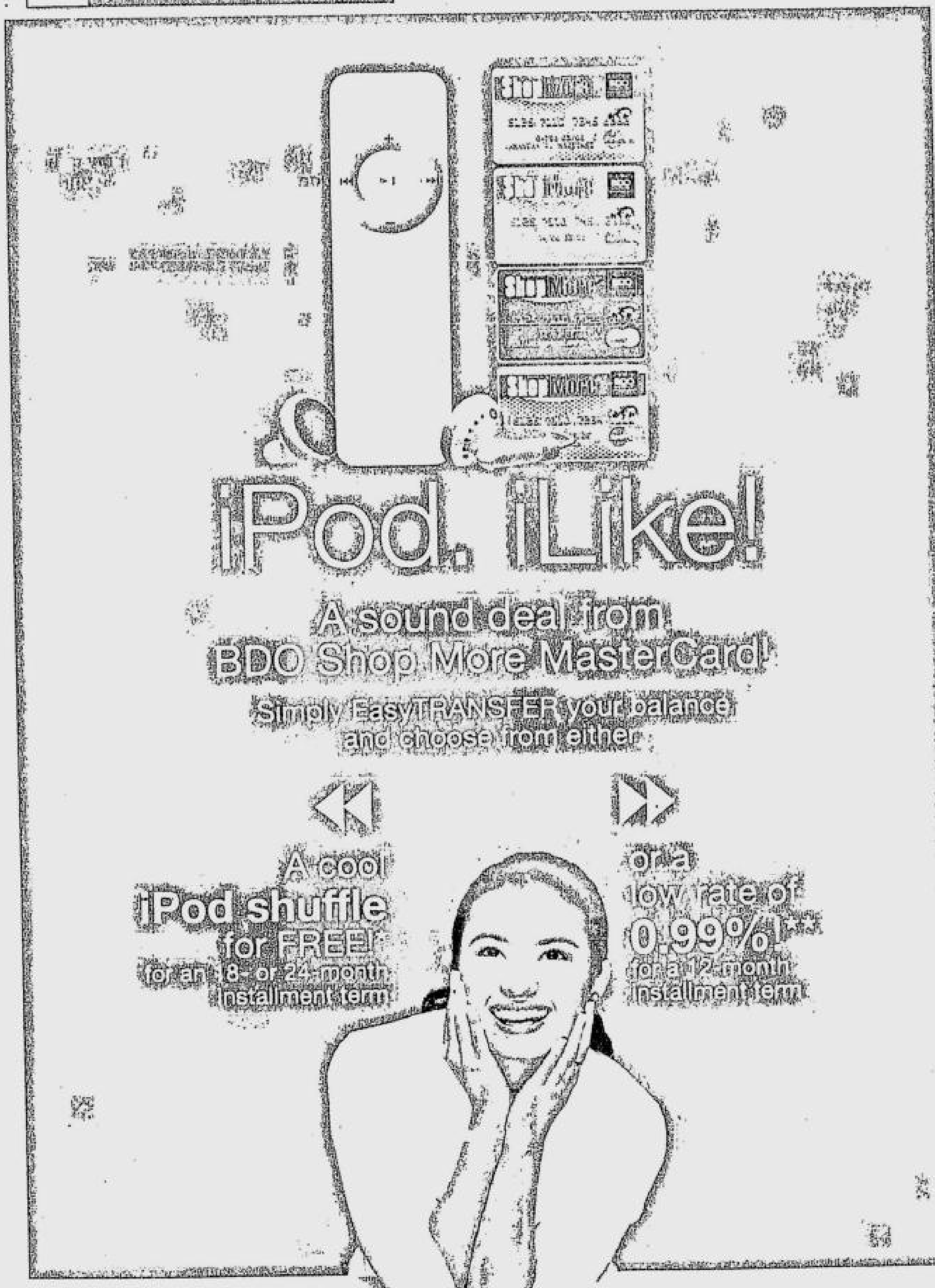
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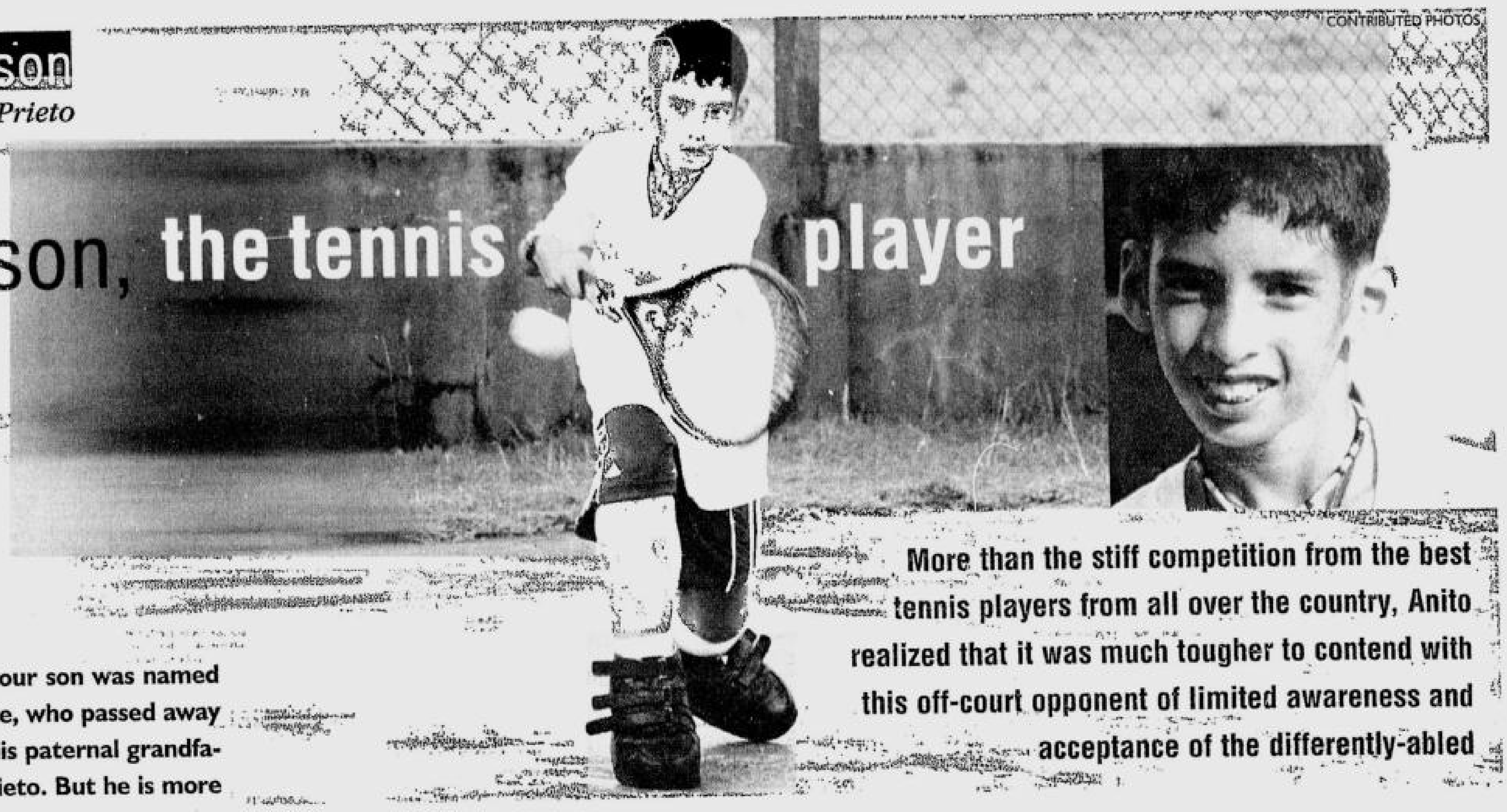
First Person

by Dinggot Conde-Prieto

Meet my son, the tennis player


CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

More than the stiff competition from the best tennis players from all over the country, Anito realized that it was much tougher to contend with this off-court opponent of limited awareness and acceptance of the differently-abled

BORN on August 12, 1993, our son was named after his paternal uncle, Jaime, who passed away in the prime of his life, and his paternal grandfather, Don Benito Legarda Prieto. But he is more known by his nickname Anito, a tribute to our indigenous pantheon of gods. In the Cordilleras, *anito* translates into spirit. Jaime Benito was therefore named after both Christian and pagan traditions, in the faith that the grace and blessings of the gods from both realms would keep him in their embrace.

We had reason to seek their protection. Anito was born with what has been diagnosed by the Boston Children's Hospital of the Harvard Medical Center as Proteus Syndrome. According to the geneticist at the hospital, as of 1994, there were only four reported cases of such condition in the world, with Anito being the first Asian. To date, 11 years after Anito was diagnosed with this syndrome, there are only 120 documented cases worldwide.

Perhaps more than my son's condition, what was most agonizing for me was the fact that at the time of his birth, man had already walked on the moon 30 years before. And yet the best pediatric orthopedists in the country could give me no answers, not even a name, for my son's condition.

No answers

To this day, we have no answers as to what brought on the syndrome since the specific gene has yet to be isolated and identified. The Harvard geneticist hypothesized it could have been one of my genes or his father Mauro's, or a combination of both.

Despite the incredible heights scaled by modern science and technology, very little is known of Proteus Syndrome. First identified by Michael Cohen Jr., DMD, PhD., in 1979, the syndrome involves the atypical growth of the bones, skin and tissues and a variety of other symptoms.

In 1983, German pediatrician Hans-Rudolf Wiedemann named it after the Greek God Proteus "the polymorphous," presumably because of the variable manifestations in the four unrelated boys first identified with the syndrome.

In Anito's case, the syndrome has affected his lower limbs, mainly his feet, where his bones are larger than usual and the fatty tissues around. He wears custom-molded shoes and will probably never have the luxury of wearing Nike or Adidas like everyone else. In our many conversations regarding his condition, he has often asked me what he needs to do to have feet like everybody else, to wear shoes like everyone else's. I have always answered him with nothing less than the truth: "Well, you will have to go through surgery and amputation and live with prosthetics." His answer? "Nah, that's too much, mom. I'll just keep what I have."

As the situation would not allow me to dwell on the whys and wherefores of Anito's condition, I've been compelled to look beyond my personal pain and seek remedies rather than answers where there are none. I wrote to nine different medical centers for children in the United States, among them Stanford University, University of California at Los Angeles, Shriners, Tuft's and the New England Medical Center. All the verdicts came back the same. They were unanimous in their recommendation for a Symme's-type amputation, amputation of the foot just above the ankle, to be compensated for with latex boot-like prosthetic appliances.

Equal possibilities

It was only Dr. Timothy Hresko of Harvard Medical at Boston Children's Hospital who requested to see Anito before he made any recommendation. It was also here where our son, at ten months old, was brought before an entire panel of senior doctors whose consensus favored amputation. This, understandably, was not an option as far as we, his parents, were concerned. We simply were not willing to close the door on our child.

Anito's condition does not dampen his desire to be competitive

Anito was attended to by Dr. Tom Silva of Pediatrics, Dr. Whiteman of Genetics, Dr. Timothy Hresko of Pediatric Orthopaedics and Dr. Charles Hergreuter of the Plastic Surgery Department, all from the Boston Children's Hospital.

I will always be grateful to these doctors for respecting the fact that for every perceived advantage of amputation, there were equal possibilities for non-amputation. My son's ability to walk on his own feet was there, on both options.

After much deliberation, discussion and debate, Anito underwent surgery for the amputation of his toes and the debulking of the excess tissue in both his feet. By the time he was four years old, he had undergone five major surgeries, all on his feet, and one on his left leg to straighten his tibia. Although thus far non-progressive, Anito's condition requires him to undergo evaluation, ideally every two years and further debulking in more or less the same period.

In the past 12 years, Anito has shown me, and perhaps countless other people who know him, the resilience, courage and boundless magic of the human spirit. To contend with his condition every day of his life, where every single step means overcoming his handicap, is commendable enough. But to do so despite the jeers, taunts, and often cruel stares and whispers that are sure to cut through the steeliest of hearts, is a feat of incredible courage, fortitude and temperance beyond my wildest imaginings and infinitely above my own tolerance.

As in anything and everything, the world is never without its anachronisms. While Anito has shown us the greatness of the human spirit, his condition has also shown us how incredibly limited human perception can be. Among Anito's passions is his love of tennis. His choice of sport and our concession to this passion has been met with much criticism and tolerated with incredulity at how we, his parents, and his tennis instructor Francisco "PetPet" Santos, Jr., could possibly encourage him in an undertaking where clearly, his chances of success are almost nil. His father and his uncle Raffy have, time and again, attempted to steer him towards the less physically demanding sport of golf. The set of junior golf clubs that Mauro had bought him a few years ago sits in one corner of the house, unused and gathering dust and cobwebs.

Play among peers

When Anito first took up tennis close to three years ago, Petpet and I trudged the lonely path of faith and conviction—faith that Anito could learn to play tennis as he so wished, and conviction that he could play among peers who would not be as physically challenged. This faith and conviction was not entirely our own, but rather were borne out of respect for Anito's burning passion and inspired by his sheer determination. Above everyone else, the boy has no illusion of being the next Roger Federrer. It is clear to him that learning to play tennis is a victory in itself, a conquest of his own limitations.

Games won, medals and awards garnered along the way are mere icing on the cake.

Because, despite the worst expectations of some people, Anito considers himself an athlete even among the non-handicapped. He has 17 medals to his name, 13 of them gold, one silver

To page 7

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

Doubting her love

How can our relationship continue when every day, I doubt her feelings for me? I'm beginning to wonder what's wrong in this relationship

Dear Joe,

My girlfriend and I are different in many ways. She is the possessive type, while I am more open-minded. We've gone through a lot of good and bad times, having been together for more than four years. I'm very happy because we were able to maintain our relationship despite the long hours I spend at work.

I've been meaning to teach her how to live a single life, because I didn't want her to think that I'm selfish. I wanted her to experience going out with friends on weekends and enjoying fun things, but I never thought this would present drawbacks in our relationship.

Joe, you can just imagine how hurt I was when my girlfriend told me that she was falling for one of her friends, a colleague from work. And to think this guy has a girlfriend abroad. She told me that her friend has always been there for her during those times when I was not around. She seemed to say that the guy did what should have been my responsibility in the first place.

I know I am to blame for all that have happened, but I took it all as a lesson to help me see things in a better perspective. I just didn't want her to feel like I was locking her up in a cage. I wanted the best for her, but I didn't realize that during the times that she was out with her friends, she was actually craving for my company.

Joe, I was heartbroken. She also kept insisting that I was dating and seeing other girls, which isn't true at all because I have never done anything that would betray her trust and ruin our relationship.

One night, we decided to talk to explain both our sides on the matter. She was crying and I wanted to cry, too, but I'm all cried out. I gave her back the ring that she gave me on our first anniversary.

The next day, however, we talked again. It seems that no matter how I try, I can never bring myself to forget her. I love her so much, Joe. She gave me back the ring, and we compromised on a lot of things.

But things feel so different now. My heart is in doubt over our relationship. Ever since we made up, I've always been afraid of what might happen to both of us.

Joe, I am confused. How can our relationship continue if I doubt her feelings for me? I'm beginning to wonder what's wrong in this relationship. I hate what I'm feeling. I can't bear the thought of losing her.

Yours truly,
Eman

Dear Eman,

It seems to me that you're worrying too much and thinking way too ahead of your time, while letting go of a precious opportunity to deal with your troubles today.

Trust is very important in any relationship. It allows us to enjoy a certain freedom without having to worry about jealousy and insecurity issues. It allows us to love without having to wrap our arms around someone all the time. It allows us to have peace of mind even during times when our relationship is threatened by detractors. Unfortunately, trust that has been broken by infidelity is hard to earn back especially if you keep asking why you were betrayed in spite of your fidelity.

Eman, I completely understand why you feel this way. It is natural to worry about your security in this relationship but you should not let this drag on to the point where you would completely lose trust and confidence in your girlfriend. Right now, you are consumed by the fear of losing her. You are slowly being eaten away by your suspicion and distrust. If you continue to allow these feelings to run your thoughts then you'd be on the road to losing her completely.

You haven't lost the battle yet but with this kind of attitude, you'd be defeated earlier than you think.

First, you have to learn to forgive her for hurting you. Second, you have to believe in your relationship. Your doubts and insecurities won't strengthen it. It will instead weaken its foundation and destroy it. If you really love her then you have to learn to trust her again. If you cannot do that, then there's very little reason for you to stay in this relationship.

Let us always remember that we build lasting relationships on the foundation of love. And true love is unquestioning. It believes in the other person completely. It never keeps a record of wrongs. It forgives unconditionally and trusts with all its heart because it knows that it's the only way to keep the past where it should be, and find hope in the promise of a better future.

Meet

...from page 6

and three bronze. He plays against the best youth tennis players of the country, managing a ranking of 36th in the 12-and-under category of the Philippine Tennis Association's Age Group bracket nationwide as of March 2005. He plays in national tournaments in various playing venues of the country, among them the Rizal Memorial Sports Stadium and recently, the Cebu Country Club where he earned the admiration of spectators, the ball boys, players, umpires and coaches alike. He does not have half the speed other tennis players have, but is brilliant in court strategy, adhering to plays PetPet has designed specifically for him.

He also has an unwavering resolve to be like everybody else. Reaching for that ball, he dives, often falling and rolling on the court, stretching himself beyond his physical limits to return every ball given him. He will fall-- on his chest, his buttocks, his back, his sides. He will be on his knees, but he will return that ball. It is this that wins Anito the respect of the crowd and his opponents.

In May 2005, Anito played in the Palarong Pambansa in La Paz, Iloilo, representing MIMAROPA in lawn tennis doubles, boys' elementary category. In a back to back victory, Anito and his partner Mark Garraez again won the gold for the same category in the Puerto Princesa City Athletic Meet in February of this year. Representing Puerto Princesa, their tandem went on to compete in the MIMAROPA Regional Athletic Meet in Boac, Marinduque in April and again won a gold. In May this year, Anito and Mark proudly represented the MIMAROPA region in the Palarong Pambansa, in Naga City.

To play in the Palarong Pambansa has been Anito's Big Dream, and ours. As dreams and wishes come free, we didn't scrimp. The Dream was just that for the longest time, with Anito joining whichever tournament came his way.

But more than the stiff competition from the best youth players from all regions of the country, the toughest opponent he had to contend with is this off-court opponent of limited awareness and acceptance of the differently-abled. It is an insufferable irony that most people would rather dwell on Anito's handicap rather than appreciate the bigger picture of a differently-abled individual playing the field and competing with the absolutely-abled.

Far more than being a good tennis player and athlete, Anito's greatest victory is in being an exemplar and opening people's eyes and hearts to the appreciation that there is more to a good athlete than mere excellence in sports.

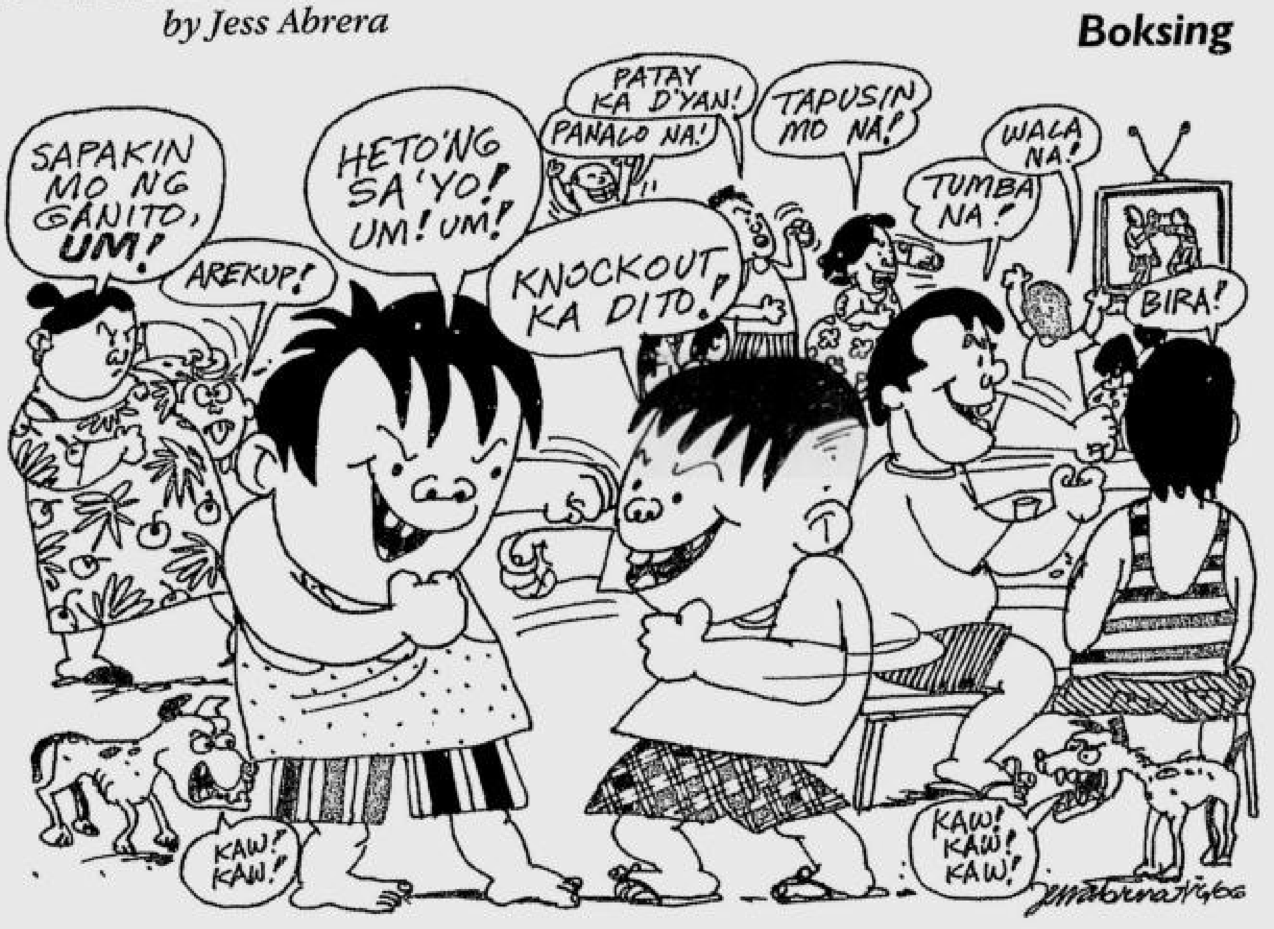
Above and beyond physical prowess is heart. It is heart that spells the difference between an athlete, a good athlete and a damn good athlete. It is from the heart that resilience, courage and determination emanate. In this, Anito's epic dream, the Palarong Pambansa, there is yet a bigger dream: that people do not see an athlete made inferior by his handicap; rather, in Anito, they learn what it is that makes a human being soar above the rest: SPIRIT. Q

This article first appeared in the May 9-15 Mothers' Day issue of the Bandillo ng Palawan, Volume 8, No. 19, and updated for publication in celebration of the National Month for the Differently-Abled.

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Boksing


SAPAKIN MO NG GANITO, UM!
AREKUP!
HETO'NG SA'YO! UM! UM!
PATAY KA D'YAN!
PANALO NA!
TAPUSIN MO NA!
KNOCKOUT KA DITO!
WALA NA!
TUMBA NA!
BIRA!
KAW! KAW!
KAW! KAW! KAW!

Being

...from page 4

'70s. He later devoted most of his professional life to the Adarna children's books program.

Recalls Martin senior: "I'm into the Humanities and I remember telling Raya in passing about my fascination with film during my college days and the article I wrote on the early years of silent movies in the Philippines."

He didn't think any of it interested his son until he took the young Raya to see an Iranian film at the first Cinemanila Festival. "An Iranian had asked me what I thought of the film while we were milling around after the show. I slept through the entire thing so I hastily pointed to Raya," Martin *pere* chuckles. "I was surprised that he was so articulate, explaining how he was trying to comprehend what the tedious shots meant. I didn't realize he could talk about the spirituality in films."

Although their parents never meddled in their children's choice of careers, Martin's mother, Nilia Lopez-Martin, a computer engineer at one of the biggest insurance firms in the country, was concerned. "When he was younger, I discouraged his dreams of being in television because there are cases when people can't seem to detach themselves from the roles they play or are unable to handle fame," she confesses. "Now he's traveled across continents getting recognition for his work. I just remind him to keep his feet on the ground. The exposure has already taught him a lot about life and the movie industry, and I know it's what he really wants to do."

Indeed, the youngest Martin son eats, drinks and breathes cinema. "I used to borrow films by Divzhenko, Kalatozov and Tarkovsky," recalls Martin. "Andrei Tarkovsky is my film hero and also my spiritual adviser in many ways through his powerful films. The film that actually changed my life, nudged me to do things seriously and not just dabble but make a difference in my own way, is 'Mirror.' It's an autobiography that deals with Tarkovsky's childhood, his parents, relationships and visions."

Continues the 21-year-old filmmaker: "When I thought of making a historical project, it became a natural thing for me because it dealt with where I come from. I have my parents, family, my background and growing up with all these Filipiniana books, old postcards, pictures of my grandparents and stories from everywhere. *'Indio Nacional'* is a mirror of my life then."

With his background and exposure, his sense of roots and love for country and home, as well as his ambition to reach out to the world, Martin seems to have the makings of an *indio internacional*, except that his future is anything but black and white. Q

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				1	4	7	5	
								6
				5	6			8
						6		7
4		8				2		1
1		9						
5			8	9				
2								
	4	3	1	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/16

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Answer to previous puzzle

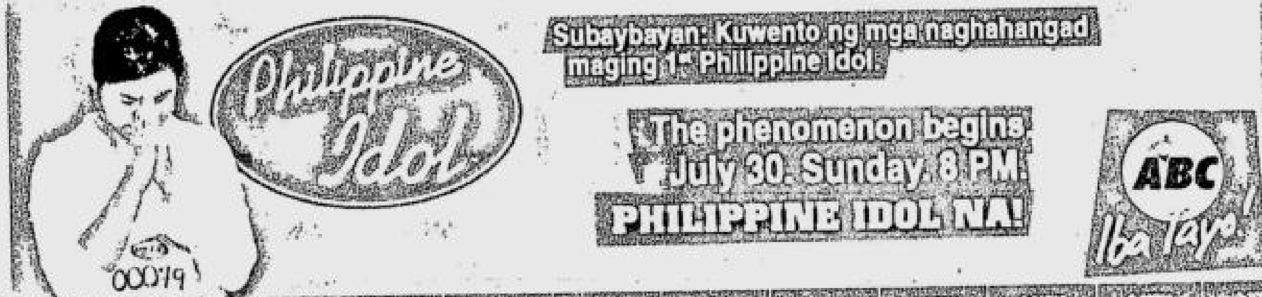
1	8	6	4	3	9	2	7	5
7	2	3	5	1	6	8	9	4
5	9	4	8	7	2	3	6	1
9	3	5	2	8	1	7	4	6
4	1	2	7	6	5	9	8	3
8	6	7	3	9	4	1	5	2
6	7	8	1	4	3	5	2	9
3	5	9	6	2	8	4	1	7
2	4	1	9	5	7	6	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

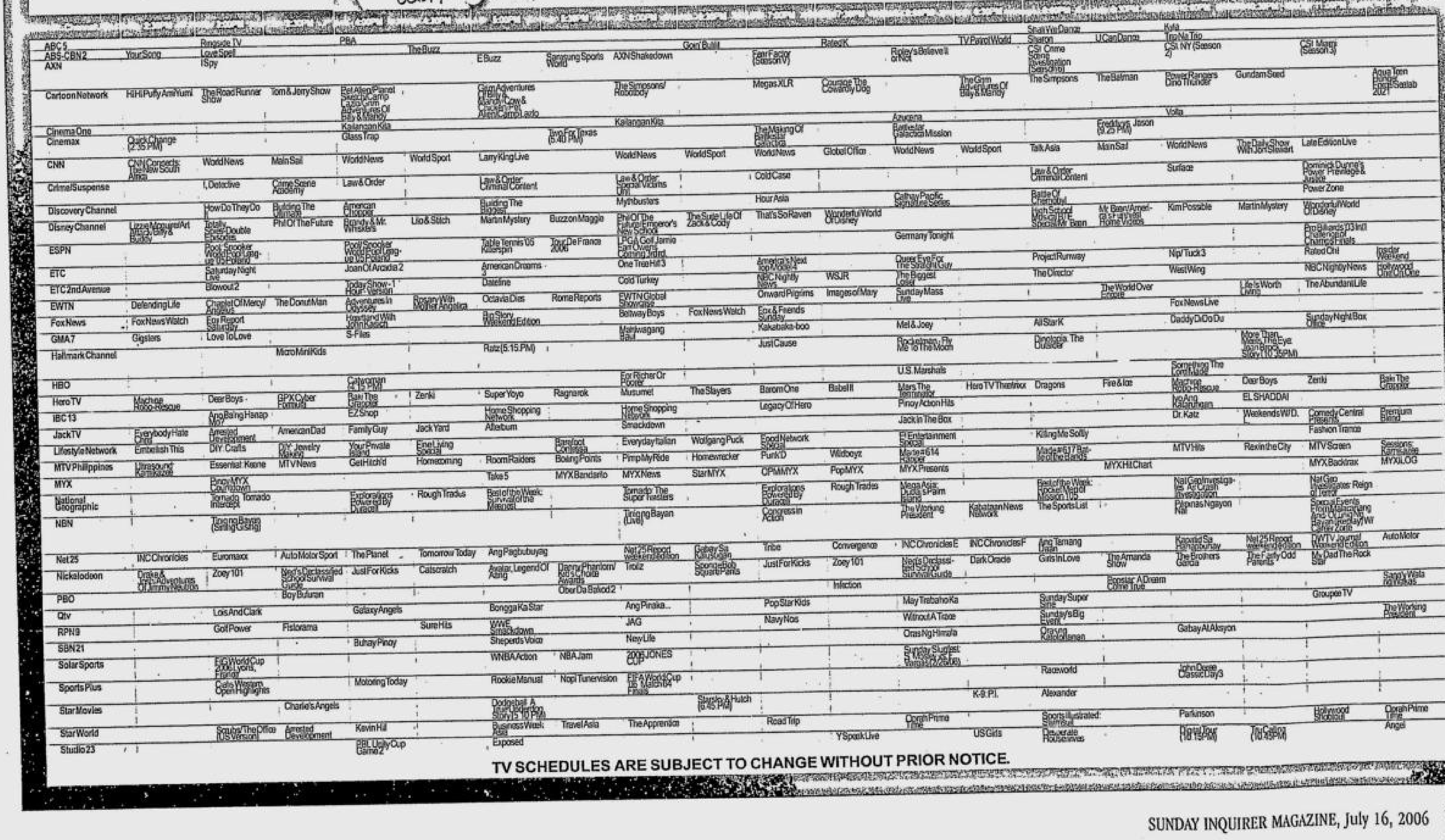
TV GUIDE

Sunday, July 16, 2006


Subaybayan: Kuwento ng mga naghahangad maging 1st Philippine Idol.
The phenomenon begins July 30, Sunday, 8 PM
PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!
ABC Iba Tayo!

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.



TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

AOY Awards: Record-setting involvement from the advertising industry

A TOTAL OF 21 PARTICIPATING agencies - a record-breaking number of entries for the 2005 Agency of the Year (AOY) Awards. That's a strong indication that advertising and media agencies have a lot of success stories to tell - about managing their business, corporate social responsibility and, as importantly, about how advertising continues to be a veritable force behind the strong showing of advertised brands in the marketplace.

Which success stories will get the judges' nod? Will it be from experienced players namely Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi, BBDO/Guerrero- Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, JimenezBasic, J.W.Thompson, Leo Burnett Manila, Lowe, McCann Erickson, Ogilvy & Mather, Publicis Manila, TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno, Y&R Philippines, MediaCom, Mediawise, Mindshare, Universal McCann, and Zenith Optimedia? Or from first-timers namely, Campaigns Cebu, Blue Bottle, Dentsu and PG&V?

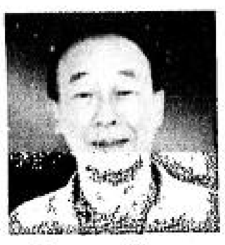
The finalists will be determined in August and the winners will be announced on Sept. 6.

Production Excellence Awards - The following made it as finalists for production excellence: for TV Production House of the Year - 88 Storey Films, Filmex, Industria, Production Village and Unitel; for Radio Production House - Adfarm, Hit Productions, Liquid Post, Noisy Neighbors and Sound Design; and for Print Production House - Calypso, Chromograph, Femar, GFX and Microsep.

Putting together the 2005 AOY Awards, the management committee is headed by chairperson, Chiqui Lara and Vice chair Nonna Nañagas. The other members/panel heads are Micky Domingo, Randy Aquino, Dino Laurena, Paolo Mercado, Mio Chongson, Jon Gatbonton, Leigh Reyes and Vanne Tomada.

Advertising Agency Of the Year (AOY) Award

Every year, the prestigious AOY Award gives honor to the best-performing ad agencies in the country. This year, the ad industry is pleased to present the distinguished Board of Advisers who will lend their professional expertise to the awards process.



George Yang
President
Golden Arches Development Corp.

Benedicto Cid
President
ACNielsen (Philippines), Inc.

Rex Mendoza
Senior Vice President
Corporate Sales & Marketing
AyalaLand, Inc.

Herminio Ordoñez
Chairman
Publicis Manila

Marides Fernando
Mayor
Marikina City

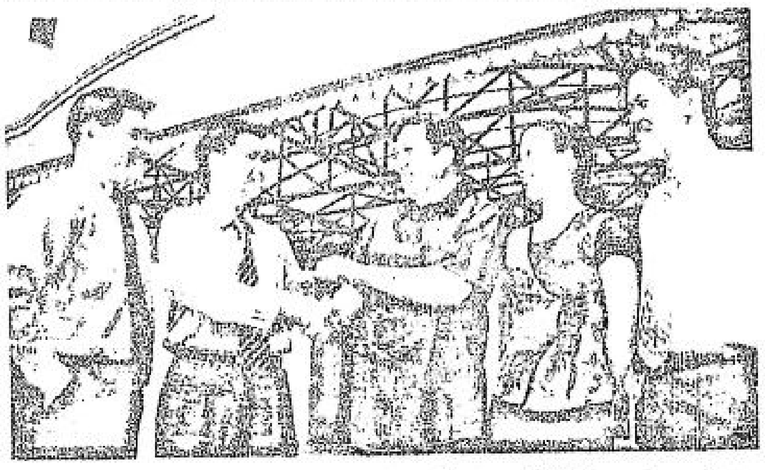
Dr. Ned Roberto
President & CEO
Roberto & Associates

Anton Huang
Executive Vice President
Store Specialists, Inc.

SMART GIVES MOUNTAINEER GARDUCE SMART LINK SATELLITE PHONES

Leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc (Smart) recently awarded Filipino mountaineer Romeo 'Romi' Garduce with two Smart Link satellite phones for conquering the world's highest mountain, Mt. Everest. Smart cited his ability, perseverance and resilience, which enabled him to reach the world's highest peak. The Smart Link satellite phones will enable him to stay connected with relatives and friends on his future journeys even to the most remote locations in the Asia Pacific region. Smart Link is a satellite based, prepaid telecommunications service that provides incoming and outgoing telephone service using the ACeS Satellite Network. Smart Link gets its signal not from cellsites, but from the ACeS Satellite orbiting over Asia, providing wireless communications service in Asia-Pacific countries including Nepal, Japan, China, Korea and Papua New Guinea. With its wide coverage, adventurous Filipinos like Garduce can rely on Smart Link to keep them connected, whether they're on top of a mountain, in the heart of a jungle, or in the middle of an ocean. Photo shows Romeo 'Romi' Garduce (right) receiving the Smart Link satellite phones from Jonathan Huertas, sales manager of Smart's Public access group (left).

MEGAWORLD WELCOMES EASTWOOD CITY'S 1000TH RESIDENT



Premier property developer Megaworld Corp, through Eastwood City Estates Association Inc (ECEA), recognized Eastwood City's 1000th resident Pablito Atacador (third from left). Handing Atacador the symbolic key is First Oceanic Property Management Inc senior assistant vice president and ECEA general manager Ferdie Gavino (second from left). Flanking them are (from left) First Oceanic Property manager Toots Aldeguer, Eastwood Property Holdings Inc assistant vice president for corporate affairs Joan Ordanez and residential division manager Emmanuel Peregrin. Atacador, now residing at the twin-tower Eastwood Excelsior, also received two Eastwood City Rewards cards, a Corelle dining set and a Shanghai Bistro gift certificate worth P5,000. As much as 30 percent of the units at The Eastwood Excelsior have already been turned over to homeowners.

NOKIA GRANTS P1M TO ABS-CBN FOUNDATION

NOKIA
ABS-CBN

Nokia Philippines Inc recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with ABS-CBN Foundation for its Educational Television (ETV) programs. P1 million was granted to develop and produce more materials for ETV's programs like Sineskwela for Science, Math Tinik for Mathematics, Hirayamanawari for Values Education, Bayani for Philippine History, Epol/Apple for English, and the new program, Basta Sports! Present at the contract signing were Angelie Agbulos, chief of staff, ABS-CBN Foundation; Gina Lopez, chair, ABS-CBN Foundation; Parikshit Bhasin, country general manager, Nokia Phils; and Simo Hoikka, program manager, Nokia Bridgeit.

PAL FOUNDATION, TABANG MINDANAW JOIN HANDS

Philippine Airlines
www.philippineairlines.com

Tabang Mindanaw executive coordinator Milet B. Mendoza and PAL Zamboanga City manager Lolito Galarrita with PAL officials join hands to transport humanitarian supplies to Tabang Mindanaw project areas in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi tawi. PAL Foundation, through executive director Ma. Carmen A. Sarmiento, has been generously providing free hauling services for Tabang Mindanaw's humanitarian and development work in Mindanao for the past four years.

Globe bags Philippine Mobile Operator of the Year at Asian MobileNews Awards

WIRELESS SERVICES PROVIDER Globe Telecom Inc has been awarded as the Philippines' Mobile Operator of the Year at the Asian MobileNews Awards 2006 held in Singapore.

Globe chief operating adviser Andrew Buay received the award "Mobile Operator of the Year, Philippines" on behalf of the company, during the awards night at Singapore's premier Tower Club last June 21.

"We are real proud to be deemed as the Philippines' Mobile Operator of the Year. This means a lot to us, to the men and women of Globe, who have been working doubly hard this year as the environment in the telecom industry calls for this. Faced with challenging times, we rise to the demand of the market and continue to find ways by which we can deliver the most up-to-date communication service to our customers at the best possible price," Buay said.

Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr said, "We are firm in our commitment to bring the most innovative and compelling mobile services and advanced technologies to the Filipino consumers, at the same time upholding the standard of excellence that Globe has been known for."

Ablaza added, "In fact, we have just introduced another pioneering service in the Philippines, Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA. With this service, Globe customers were the first not only in the Philippines but in all of Asia-Pacific to enjoy these 'super 3G' services."

Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA was launched last March 30 making Globe the first wireless operator in Asia-Pacific to commercially launch 3G with HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) technology. Touted as "Super 3G" or "3.5G", HSDPA delivers even faster mobile broadband speeds up to 1.8 Mbps or up to 25 times faster than dial-up speeds and up to 5-7 times faster than regular 3G.

Hundreds of thousands of Globe Handyphone prepaid and postpaid subscribers have now been experiencing 3G services like video calling, Globe Video IDD, 3G video and multimedia streaming and high-speed internet browsing all at very affordable 2G rates.

Asian MobileNews, the leading publication for mobile carriers in Asia, honours the crème de la crème of Asia's mobile industry in this exclusive event. The Asian MobileNews Awards gathers key players from Asia's telecom field to exchange business pointers and recognize those whose efforts have seen most growth in terms of revenue and profit margin for the past year.

Globe's over-the-air prepaid reloading application Share-a-Load also bagged the "Most Innovative Service of the Year" at the Asian MobileNews Awards 2004. Launched in January 2004, Globe Share-a-Load is recognized as the first secure variable peer-to-peer credit reloading system in the Philippines.

Globe's breakthrough mobile commerce service G-Cash was cited "Most Innovative Mobile Operator Service" at the Asian MobileNews Awards 2005. G-Cash transforms the mobile phone into a mobile wallet, allowing subscribers to buy goods and services, send money person-to-person, and receive domestic fund transfers and international remittances via SMS. Launched in 2004, Globe G-Cash is the first and only cashless and cardless payment platform in the Philippines.

Globe Telecom introduced GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) technology in the Philippines and has since been recognized as the leader in mobile innovation. It pioneered the popular short messaging service (SMS) and multimedia messaging service (MMS) in the country. Globe is also the first to make 3G and HSDPA commercially available to the Filipino customer.

BPI leads OFW remittance banks

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands (BPI) now has emerged as the leader in the banking industry in terms of OFW remittances. Recently, the BPI, through its Expat Pinoy Program of Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance, was awarded by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for being the country's biggest remittance bank. The award was received by BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III.

In spite of being a latecomer to the remittance business, BPI nonetheless overtook the market leaders to wrest the leadership position with product offers that catered to the needs of the overseas Filipino workers. BPI Direct president Raul D. Dimayuga, in a briefing said, "BPI Direct Savings Bank and BPInoy Remittance are part of a larger BPI initiative called Expat Pinoy Program which addresses the fundamental needs of Filipinos working abroad. BPI Direct Savings Bank is a virtual bank, a click-and-portal bank that services its clients through phone and internet connections. BPInoy Remittance, on the other hand, is an online, realtime remittance service that gives free text alert to both remitter and beneficiary that money has been credited to the BPI account and can already be withdrawn in any of the over 1,300 Express Teller ATMs of BPI."

BPInoy Remittance can be accessed through BPI Remittance Centers and local company remittance partners all over the world. A BPInoy Pabaon Package is given to all outbound Expat Pinoy depositors in the BPI Direct Savings Bank. The Pabaon includes a BPInoy Savings Account that features ATM and remittance services worldwide; BPI Credit Card, which being a MasterCard is acceptable anywhere in the world; and a 24/7 BPInoy Counselling Serivce which assists the OFW in managing their finances. A TV commercial for the BPInoy! campaign features Erik Santos, the son of an OFW himself singing the jingle, entitled "Iuwi Mo ang Pangarap." The jingle speaks of the children's collective wish - to have their parents come home.

BPI president Montinola mentioned at the launch of the Expat Pinoy Program that "Through this program, we hope to be able to give back to our kababayans by helping them better manage the hard-earned fruits of their labour. We hope to further prove that Filipinos are truly capable of taking on the world and BPI will be there, wherever they are."

The bulk of remittances from OFWs come from the USA, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Italy and the Asian countries like Hong Kong and Japan. With the BPI Expat Pinoy program banking services available, the OFWs no longer need to request personal hand-carriers for their remittances to the Philippines as had been their past custom. In effect, they have now entered the world of finance that makes them a truly important sector to contend with not only locally but globally as well.

SHOWN (from left) BSP Monetary Board Member Alfredo C. Antonio, BPI president and Expressnet chair Aurelio R. Montinola III, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. and BPI VP and BPI Direct Savings Bank president Raul D. Dimayuga at the awarding ceremonies.

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION
33rd Anniversary Celebration & Awards Night
Outstanding Professionals, Outstanding Accredited
Professional Organization & Distinguished Service
uest of Honor: HON. SEC. EDUARDO R. ERMITA
THEME:
C: Onlin
200

PRC HONORS UNILAB FOUNDER

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) recently honored Unilab founder and chairman Emeritus Jose Y. Campos as the 'Father of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry' for his lifetime work and achievements in providing affordable quality medicines and improving Filipinos' access to better healthcare. Campos established United Laboratories Inc (Unilab) as a small corner drugstore in Manila and transformed it into the country's leading pharmaceutical company with a wide range of over-the-counter and prescription products for common illnesses and major chronic diseases. Many of Unilab's products are now dominant brands in the local market. Unilab chair Jocelyn Campos Hess (4th from left) received the award from the PRC during its 33rd Anniversary Celebration held at the Manila Hotel last June 29. Shown in photo are (from left): PRC Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, Association of Professional Regulatory Board Members president engineer Alfredo Y. Po, PRC Chairperson Leonor Tripon-Rosero, PRC Commissioner Avelina A. Dela Rea, Philippine Federation of Professional Associations president Dr. Nenita C. Lee-Tan, Foundation for Outstanding Professionals trustee Dr. Diampo J. Lim, and Unilab AVP for professional relations Francisco M. Morales.